Senate panel OK's bill allowing CHCC to retain medical professionals from foreign countries. PAGE 2

Visitor arrivals at 15K in Oct. 2024. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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3 newborns test positive for meth

Child Protective Services, under the Division of Youth Services, reports a troubling start to the new fiscal year, with data from October 2024 revealing three newborns testing positive for methamphetamine at birth.

Sablan

These figures are just for October and do not include ongoing cases, where CPS is actively working with families who need additional support.

"Each of these cases represents a newborn who deserves a healthier start to life. This isn't just about numbers; it's

See METH on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Members of the CNMI Board of Parole and Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres speak to Parolees before their release yesterday at the Vicente Taman Seman Building in Susupe.

McDoulett: Undocumented may face challenges, uncertainties under Trump

RACQUEL FLOYD

Lawyer Joey McDoulett said that undocumented immigrants may face challenges and uncertainties under the administration of President-elect Donald J. Trump.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Although most undocumented immigrants are not criminals and would not fall under urgent deportation, they may face challenges and uncertainties under the incoming administration of President-elect Donald J. Trump, according to immigration lawyer Joey McDoulett.

"No different from the current policy that's in place. The current policy from the Biden administration was to focus on deporting criminals who are also illegally present

See MCDOULLET on Page 4

Now under DOC, BOP grants parole to 8 inmates

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI Board of Parole conducted its first parole hearing as part of the Department of Corrections at the Vicente Taman Seman Building in Susupe yesterday and at the end of the proceedings granted parole to eight DOC inmates.

In a press conference after the hearing that also doubled as a board meeting with members of the CNMI Board of Parole, DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres shared that

See DOC on Page 4

Seaman sues US govt over injuries incurred aboard vessel

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A seaman is suing the United States government over injuries he sustained while he was an employee aboard one of the merchant marine vessels stationed just off the coast of Saipan.

Merchant mariner Travis Thornton is suing the United States of America pursuant to the Jones Act and the General Maritime Law on the grounds of negligence, unseaworthiness, and failure to pay plaintiff maintenance and cure due following the incident.

Thornton, through attorney

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INSIDE

LOCAL

The American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter proudly recognizes volunteer Balbina "Bobbie" Solberg for her dedication and service in the wake of Hurricane Helene

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BUSINESS

Nestled in an unassuming corner of Chinatown alomg Middle Road, Takayama is making waves among food lovers seeking both quality and affordability.

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LIFE & STYLE

Let the office debates begin– John Krasinski is People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive for 2024.

PAGE 11

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Local

Senate panel OK's bill allowing CHCC to retain medical professionals from foreign countries

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Standing Committee on Health, Education and Welfare has passed Senate Bill 23-67 Senate Substitute 1 which essentially establishes a special medical facility permit to allow physicians licensed to practice in a foreign country to practice medicine at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

During a committee meeting last week, the standing committee unanimously passed S.B. 23-67 SS1. The bill now heads to the full Senate body for a vote before it makes its way to the House.

During the hearing, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. professionals came out in support of the bill's passage.

Marty Roringer, deputy chief medical officer at CHCC and vice chairman of the Healthcare Professions Licensing Board, expressed that there is an increasing crisis across the nation due to a decline in the number of primary care and acute care providers.

"Not only here but it's a nationwide issue where there is a shrinking number of primary care and acute care providers in remote areas. This would include us here in Saipan but especially on Rota and Tinian. Trying to get an appointment with a primary care doctor is a challenge, this problem is upon us already and is not expected to get any better and we are required to explore other options in finding qualified doctors. This problem is certainly in primary care already but is expected to worsen in specialty care as well," he said.

At CHCC, Roringer said they have leveraged multiple recruiting resources without adequate results.

"I know the private sector struggles with this as well. Medical schools in the United States are graduating

See SENATE on Page 3

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Visitor arrivals at 15K in Oct. 2024

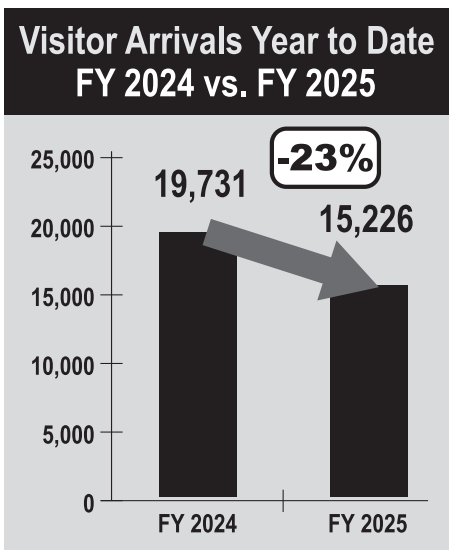
According to monthly statistics from the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota decreased 23% to 15,226 visitors in October 2024, compared to 19,731 visitors received in October 2023.

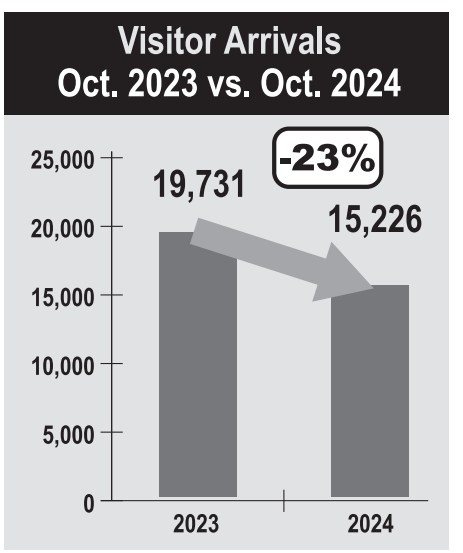
In October, visitor arrivals from South Korea registered 11,533, 30% lower than 16,374 visitors received in October 2023. The Marianas received 88 flights from Korea this October compared to 133 flights last year. The suspension of Asiana Airlines operations to Saipan since July, along with the planned suspension of Jeju Air's night flight starting on Oct. 28, negatively affected arrivals. Also this year, the Chuseok holiday travel period took place in mid-September, while last year Chuseok occurred between Sept. 29 and early October and National Foundation Day also fell in October. Furthermore, the shutdown of major Korean e-commerce platforms Tmon and WeMakePrice has continued to negatively affect overall outbound travel from Korea.

Visitor arrivals from Japan registered 595 in October 2024 compared to 375 visitors in October 2023, a 59% increase. While the desire to travel abroad is gradually recovering, the strong U.S. Dollar and weaker Japanese Yen continue to influence travelers to choose non-U.S. or domestic destinations, as well a continuing preference for domestic travel among Japanese travelers.

China arrivals in October 2024 reached 1,175 compared to 1,289 arrivals in October 2023, a decrease of 9%. Prior to the pandemic, China was the second largest source market of visitors to the Marianas with multiple direct flights a week from five cities. Hong Kong Airlines now flies twice weekly between Hong Kong and Saipan.

In October the Marianas also received 930 visitors from Guam, 554 visitors from the U.S. and a combined 439 visitors from all other markets. ***(PR)***





Source: Marianas Visitors Authority

SENATE

From page 2

insufficient numbers of doctors for the aging population and this problem is expected to worsen," he said.

Fortunately, there are qualified people out there who can provide this level of care, and it has been proven through the Medical Referral Program. Unfortunately, current barriers are hindering qualified doctors from practicing here which is why he supports the passing of S.B. 23-67.

"Historically, in the CNMI, we've had the unique opportunity to send our patients to healthcare facilities outside the United States such as the Philippines, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan for care. We know there are qualified people who can care for our people who are not trained in the United States. Our current regulation laws are a barrier to bring qualified and excellent doctors to work here. I have absolute confidence that we have the resources to vet and ensure that we bring in skilled and qualified doctors from foreign countries to address this immediate and critical need especially for primary care in Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. Especially since the lack of specialty care is on our doorstep already," he said.

Matthew Nelson, current Emergency Department director and chairman at CHCC, echoes this sentiment stating that foreign medical doctors can address the growing health needs of the CNMI.

"Our department traditionally provides supplemental medical services to Tinian and Rota. However, over the past few years, the emergency department and family care clinic have found it increasingly difficult to provide coverage to Rota and Tinian as our departments are also facing recruitment and retention issues. While our emergency department providers are able to care for all ages, our training and focus is on emergency and urgent care, not primary or continuity care. As a first board certified family physician, I can't overstate the importance of access to preventative and consistent primary care. I strongly support the opportunity that foreign medical doctors would present in addressing the continuing health needs of our Rota and Tinian."

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NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU
(October 17, 2024)

Sigun para i Seksiona 5 A. gi "Northern Marianas Housing Corporation" ("NMHC") i "Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR")" na Prugråman "Action Plan" ("AP"), para u manafanungu' i henerått pupbliku put esti i manmaproponi na "substantial" yan "non-substantial" na amenda siha gi CDBG-DR AP yan para u manå'i i pupbliku tiempu para u fampattisipåo yan i uputunidåt para u famanoppi' gi esti i manmaproponi na amenda siha. I henerått pupbliku debi na u ma'intrega hålum i upiñon-ñiha gi halum trenta (30) dihas ginen i fetchan pupblikasion nu esti na Nutisia put esti i tinilaika ni manmaproponi siha gi CDBG-DR AP.

I "substantial" na amenda siha manaprisisu yanggin guaha tinilaika gi halum i prugråman benifisiu/"criteria" i kuålifikåo, "addition/deletion" nu i aktibidåt, o sino "reallocation i "substantial amount". I "substantial" na amenda siempri lokkui' prumisisu yanggin kuatkuet na tinilaika siha gi prugråma umupus i singku miyon pesus ($5,000,000). I "substantial" na amenda debi na u pribeni rasonåpbli na uputunidåt (maseha 30 dihas) para upiñon pupbliku.

Todu i tinilaika siha debi na u madukumentu ni Prugråman NMHC's CDBG-DR para u pribeni todu i dos nisisåriu yan rasonåpbli na "justification". Todu i "substantial" na amenda siha siempri ingklusu i mantinattiyi:

1. I eksakto na aidentifikasion nu månu na sinahguan manå'yi, mafunas, pat matulaika;
2. Klåru na diskripsion nu ginen månu/para månu i fundu; yan
3. I más nuebu yan maribisa na "budget" dispues di i "re-allocation" nu i salåppi'.

Gi inåtlabis, i "non-substantial" na amenda siha para i "Action Plan" ti manmasuhetu para påttisipasion siudadanu låo i NMHC madisidi para u ingklusu i "non-substantial" na amenda para i mamensiona na Plånu gi halum esti na Nutisia para infotmasion ha' na rason siha. Yan más, todu i "action plan" na amenda siha siempri managuaha gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi www.cnmicdbg-dr.com yan siña machuli' kopia gi ufisinan i NMHC yan i CDBG-DR siha ni gaigi iya Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta para etyi siha i ti siña ma'akses i "Internet". I ninatutungu' i pupbliku mampus impottånti sa' esti na fundu dinipendi meggai gi påttisipasion pupbliku yan i tetenan ni ti matakka' nisisita para u ma'ebalua.

I NMHC siempri ma'usa i mantinattiyi na "avenues/outlets" para u manafanungu' i pupbliku put i Prugråman CDBG-DR:

- Nutisia gi halum gaseta
- Anunsiu Rediu • Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Uttimu, i NMHC siempri ha chuli' rasonåpbli na manera para u na'siguru na i "very low-, low-," yan "moderateincome" na petsona siha, kuntodu i tåotåo ni gai disibilidåt, i gai inamku' yan i tåotåo ni "Limited English Proficiency (LEP)" na managuaha akses para u más makumprendi i prugråma yan parehu na uputunidåt para u fampattisipåo gi halum esti impottånti na aktibidåt i CDBG-DR ni kumunfotma yan i manmakåtkåtga na "policies" yan "procedures" ni gaigi gi halum i Prugråman CDBG-DR Citizen Participation Plan." I manmamensiona yan kumplidu na "Citizen Participation Plan" siña ma'akses gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com o sino siña masodda' gi Subsection 4.E.1. Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the CDBG-DR Action Plan (pages 72 - 74), ni ma amenda. I kopian i "Action Plan", komu ma'amenda ginen esti na tinilaika na priniponi siha, siña ma'akses gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com o sino siña machuli' kopia gi maseha månu na ufisinan i NMHC iya Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta.

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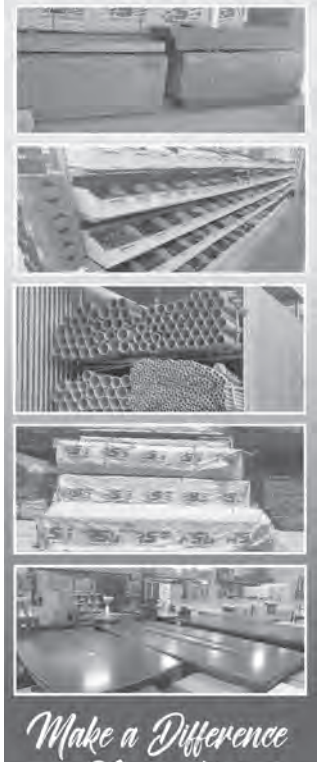
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Scheduled power, water service interruption on Tinian this Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled power and water service interruption on Tinian this Saturday, Nov.16, 2024.

The power service interruption will be from 8am to 2pm on portions of San Jose Village and subdivision areas. The purpose is to allow CUC linemen to safely de-energize utility lines to upgrade the power distribution system and complete new installations.

The water service interruption, meanwhile, will be from 8am to 11am on portions of San Jose Village and subdivision areas. Th purpose to allow CUC water operators to install a 2-inch water meter.

Customers in these areas will experience low to no water pressure between the specified hours. Please allow one to two hours for the water lines to fully pressurize.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as CUC works to ensure reliable service for our customers. For more information, contact the CUC Tinian Office at (670) 433-9265 or 433-9200, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

DOC

From page 1

among the eight parolees, six would join the active parole program which already has 13 individuals, making it a total of 19 current parolee releases.

In regards to the other two inmates granted parole yesterday, BOP chair Chris Leon Guerrero noted that they are currently detained at the federal [court] so they were basically being transferred to the feds. Leon Guerrero didn't disclose the details of the case but noted that the individuals were foreign nationals with cases involving drugs, specifically meth.

Leon Guerrero told the media that, so far, most current parolees are doing well.

"They've been doing good. The violations of parolees are pretty low, so its showing that the system is working." He expressed his faith in the collaboration with DOC and Torres. Leon Guerrero added that the current programs and partnerships Torres has been implementing with the court and businesses makes getting back into the outside world smoother for parolees.

"Some have jobs waiting for them as well...Whenever an inmate has a job within DOC and can be furloughed to work, those are opportunities for them to be reintegrated back so they can be a full-time employee as well."

Torres emphasized that their priority is not just to give parolees a second chance, but to ensure the community safety and security so he shared that before granting parole, parolees were instructed that if they were caught in violation of the conditions or committing another crime, they will be immediately put back into prison.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

METH

From page 1

about our duty to step up as a community to protect and nurture these children," said Mariah Barcinas, CPS supervisor. "We need to come together to support families and prevent substance exposure from affecting our children's lives from the very beginning."

DYS administrator Vivian T. Sablan emphasized the importance of community-wide awareness and resources: "Our focus at DYS is not just on responding to these cases, but on building a network of support to prevent them. We want parents and families to know that help is available and that seeking support early can make a difference. These children deserve a healthy start, and it's up to all of us to make that possible."

Alongside newborn exposure cases, October 2024 data also revealed 63 new reports, involving 162 children and a total of 224 separate allegations, including emotional abuse and neglect, physical abuse and various support services. CPS has prioritized these cases by providing services and interventions that address both immediate safety and long-term family stability.

DYS calls on the community to join in raising awareness, sharing information about available resources and supporting families in need. By creating a supportive environment where families feel comfortable seeking help, DYS aims to reduce the risk of future cases and ensure that every child in the CNMI has the opportunity to thrive.

For more information about Child Protective Services or to report a concern, contact CPS at (670) 237-1005-14 or visit our website at dys.gov.mp or our Facebook Page: "DCCA DYS." ***(PR)***

MCDOULLET

From page 1

that's not any different. The difference for Trump is that he's advocating large-scale roundups and detentions of people pending deportation. So, for most people of the CNMI, they're not present with crimes like they're not murderers, drug dealers, and rapists, but they might be present illegally, so they wouldn't fall into that category of urgent deportation," he said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* before serving as guest at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

McDoulett said that Trump's plan to deport millions of undocumented immigrants is unrealistic due to logistical challenges.

"The only thing we've seen so far on that plan is the general intention to deport millions of people, right? But I think it's an unrealistic goal because he said 11 million immigrants or illegal immigrants would be deported in his first year in office. The reason I say it's unrealistic is because of the logistics involved in a single deportation, much less collecting 11 million people and preparing to deport them."

He added that the plan could generate fear in immigrant communities and implementing deportation on Saipan may face challenges.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

SEAMAN

From page 1

David Banes, is asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to grant him judgment against the United States of America for compensatory damages and all other damages he is entitled to. In addition, Thornton seeks judgment for all costs incident to this action, pre and post judgment interest, and other relief deemed just and proper by the court.

According to the lawsuit, back in May 2023, Thornton was employed by Kellogs Brown and Root—the operator of U.S.-owned vessel USNS *Watson*—as a seaman and a member of the crew of the vessel.

On May 12, 2023, Thornton alleges that his supervisor ordered that he manually lift armored windshields weighing approximately 300 pounds each against safe lifting guidance.

As a result of this, Thornton said he suffered a hernia, L5-S1 and L4-L5 disc injuries, and tricep pain.

"All the actions occurred while the plaintiff was in the performance of this duties under orders and in the service of the vessel. At all times the USA was responsible for the actions of its employees and of the conditions aboard the vessel. Prior to and at the time he suffered injury, the plaintiff exercised due care for his own safety and well-being," said Banes.

On March 26, 2024, Thornton's lawyer said Thornton filed a formal administrative claim which has not been resolved to date.

"On March 26, 2024, with regard to the incident and injury suffered by Mr. Thornton, plaintiff properly presented a formal administrative claim that complied with all requirements of law. More than sixty (60) days have elapsed since the USA received the administrative claim without denial of the claim. Further, the parties have not resolved the claim," said Banes.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-25

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 03, 2024 (2:00 P.M.)

"ACQUISITION, PROGRAMMING, & COMMISSIONING OF FIFTEEN (15) BRAND NEW UNITS OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING NOVEMBER 01, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "ACQUISITION, PROGRAMMING, & COMMISSIONING OF FIFTEEN (15) BRAND NEW UNITS OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT **(IFB-003-25)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., DECEMBER 03, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-25
SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 03, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

"TROUBLESHOOT, REPAIR, REPLACE, AND UPGRADE MULTIPLE CORE COMPONENTS OF THE PUBLIC ADDRESS (PA) SYSTEM AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING NOVEMBER 01, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "TROUBLESHOOT, REPAIR, REPLACE AND UPGRADE MULTIPLE CORE COMPONENTS OF THE PA SYSTEM **(RFP-008-25)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., DECEMBER 03, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: NOVEMBER 01, 2024

ARC-NMI volunteer steps up in response to Hurricane Helene

The American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter proudly recognizes volunteer Balbina "Bobbie" Solberg for her dedication and service in the wake of Hurricane Helene, which devastated parts of the eastern United States. Recently retired, Solberg sought a meaningful way to contribute to her community, leading her to join the Red Cross as a volunteer in June 2024.

"I didn't want to stay idle after retirement," said Solberg. "I wanted to make a difference and help those in need."

With her enthusiasm and commitment, Solberg completed the necessary training to equip her with the skills required for deployment. Her hard work soon bore fruit when she was called to assist in Georgia, where she began her journey as a shelter worker. Solberg's role was critical in providing support and comfort to those affected by the hurricane.

In addition to her work in Georgia, Solberg was also tasked with conducting damage assessments in parts of North Carolina. Her ability to adapt and take on new responsibilities showcases the vital role volunteers play in disaster response efforts.

"The selflessness and courage displayed by volunteers like Bobbie are what make the American Red Cross effective in its mission to help communities during times of crisis," said J.D. Tenorio, Disaster Program manager, of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter. "We are incredibly grateful for her service."

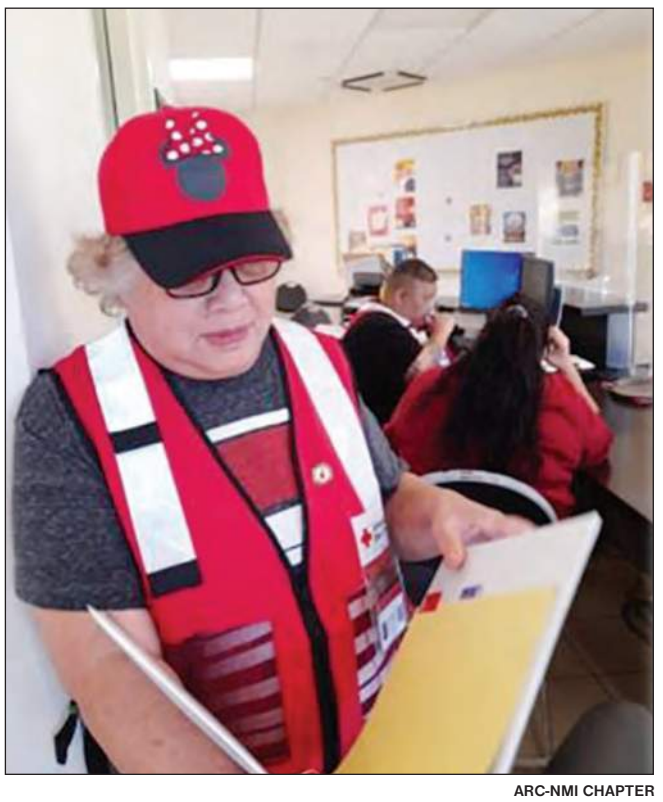
Solberg's story is a testament to the spirit of community and volunteerism that defines the American Red Cross. For more information on how to get involved, visit www.redcross.org.

For more information about the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter and upcoming community initiatives, visit www.redcross.org/nmi or call (670) 234-3459.

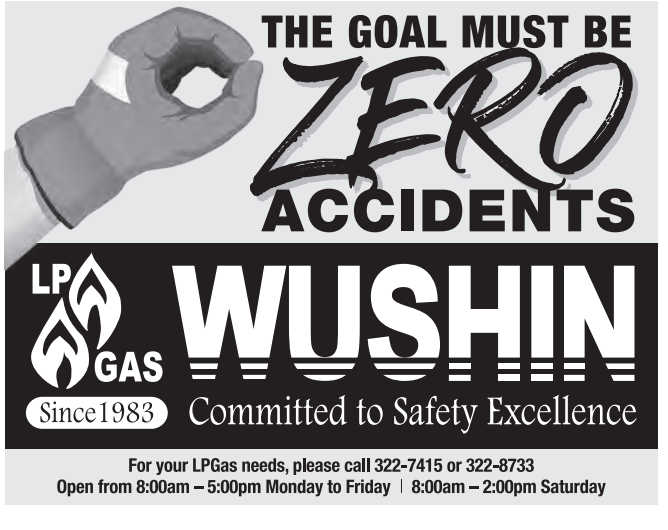
The American Red Cross shelters, feeds, and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families.

The Red Cross is a non-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. ***(PR)***

ARC-NMI CHAPTER
American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter volunteer Balbina "Bobbie" Solberg's in action during Hurricane Helene in Georgia.



ARC-NMI CHAPTER
American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter volunteer Balbina "Bobbie" Solberg.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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE
(October 17, 2024)

Pursuant to Section 5 A. of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC") Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR") Program's Action Plan ("AP"), this is to notify the general public about these proposed substantial and non-substantial amendments to the CDBG-DR AP and afford citizen participation and the opportunity to comment on these proposed amendments.

The general public has thirty (30) days from publication date of this Public Notice to submit comments on these proposed changes to the CDBG-DR AP. Substantial amendments are required when there is a change in program benefit/eligibility criteria, addition/deletion of an activity, or reallocation of substantial amounts.

A substantial amendment will also be required if any program changes exceed five million dollars ($5,000,000). Substantial amendments must provide a reasonable opportunity (at least 30 days) for citizen comment. All changes must be documented by NMHC's CDBG-DR Program to provide both necessary and reasonable justifications. All substantial amendments will include the following:

1. The exact identification of which content is being added, deleted, or changed;
2. A clear description of where funds are moved from/to; and
3. The updated and revised budget after re-allocation of funding.

Conversely, non-substantial amendments to the Action Plan are not subject to citizen participation but NMHC decided to include a non-substantial amendment to the said Plan in this Public Notice for informational purposes only. Furthermore, all action plan amendments will be available via the CNMI CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com and hardcopies may be obtained at any of the NMHC central and CDBG-DR offices located on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by those who do not have access to the Internet. Notifying the public is of paramount importance as these funds are largely dependent on public participation and the remaining unmet need to be assessed. NMHC will utilize the following avenues/outlets to notify the public of the CDBG-DR Program:

- Notices in the local newspaper
- Radio announcements
- Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Last, NMHC will take reasonable steps to ensure very low-, low-, and moderate-income persons, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access and an equal opportunity to participate in this important CDBG-DR activity and in accordance to prescribed policies and procedures embedded in the CDBG-DR Program's Citizen Participation Plan. The aforesaid and complete Citizen Participation Plan may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com or found at Subsection 4.E.1. Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the CDBG-DR Action Plan (pages 72 - 74), as amended. A copy of the Action Plan, as amended by these proposed changes, may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website at: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com or obtained at any of the NMHC offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Proposed changes are highlighted in yellow. The corresponding page numbers reflect the actual page numbers of the most current action plan, as amended and posted on NMHC's CDBG-DR website at: https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com/action-plan/action-plan-documents/

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT NO. 04

Summary and Modifications

Pursuant to **Subsection 5.D.**[1], the following proposed modifications shall go into effect after the required 30-day public comment period ends and concurrence from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
The proposed modifications, as presented herein, were prompted by the following reason(s):

1. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) has determined the necessity to allocate additional funding towards road, power, and water repair projects under the Low Mod Area Benefit (LMA) National Objective. This need stems from the significant damage caused by qualifying storms that have impacted vital infrastructure, disrupting essential services and community functioning. NMHC proposes to reprogram $19,565,454.32 from Public Facilities Activities to Roads Activities ($6,325,166) and Utilities Activities ($13,240,288.32).

2. **Evaluation and Expansion of Projects:** A comprehensive evaluation revealed that the CNMI's infrastructure, particularly in the areas of road and utilities, requires greater diversification and support. The damage assessment, limited resources, and cost of inflation led to the identification of additional projects and additional funding needed on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, which have been severely impacted. These additional projects are crucial to restoring and improving critical infrastructure and services, hence the need to increase the budget allocated for these activities.

3. **Infrastructure Activities for Disaster Recovery:** The Substantial Amendment also allows NMHC to adjust the program's Infrastructure Plan. By reallocating funds, the agency can provide targeted assistance to disaster victims by accelerating the pace of infrastructure recovery. Given the importance of roads, utilities, and basic services to the economic and social stability of the affected areas, modifying the funding allocations is vital for disaster recovery efforts.

4. This amendment is necessary for the CNMI's infrastructures that were greatly impacted by the 2018 storms. In order to target heavily impacted areas and make improvements, NMHC is proposing to amend the CNMI Action Plan to allocate sufficient funding to critical infrastructure projects. Doing so will not only greatly impact the strength and resilience, but also, recovery of the CNMI. NMHC strongly believes that this amendment is necessary and funds will ensure that the resources are appropriately allocated to the most heavily impacted areas.

5. During the planning process, it became clear that the most impacted areas were Saipan and Tinian, and that infrastructure activities on these islands should be prioritized. The scoring criteria established in the action plan (refer to page 51) will guide how projects and activities are selected, with a strong emphasis on the infrastructure's broad benefits across the islands.
   - **Benefit to the Population:** Due to the small size of the CNMI islands, any infrastructure improvements will have widespread benefits for the entire population. Moreover, the high percentage of low- to moderate-income benefit area and over 90% of the population are minority residents ensures that these activities will provide broad, equitable benefits. These factors also ensure economic stability so residents can remain in homes and residences and retain their jobs because the infrastructure is improved. The actual size of the Islands also means that all persons will benefit from most of the infrastructure improvements.
   - **Economic Stability:** Improved infrastructure will play a critical role in ensuring economic stability for residents. Enhanced roads, power grids, and water systems will help maintain residential stability, allowing individuals to retain their homes and jobs, which are key factors in sustaining local economies.

6. The transfer of funds under Substantial Amendment No. 04 is necessary to address the infrastructure challenges exacerbated by recent storms. Without this amendment, NMHC would not have the flexibility to allocate sufficient resources to critical infrastructure projects. By modifying the budget and increasing the available funding for road and utility projects, the CNMI can make measurable progress in recovery, particularly in the areas that have been hit hardest. These improvements are also essential for long-term resilience in the face of future natural disasters.

Given the substantial impact these infrastructure projects will have on both the recovery and future resilience of the CNMI, we strongly believe that this amendment is justified and necessary. The transfer of funds will ensure that resources are appropriately allocated to the most urgent areas, allowing us to support disaster victims and stabilize the affected communities.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CDBG-DR ALLOCATIONS

	Previous Allocation	Change	Revised Allocation
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	$254,324,000		$254,324,000
HOUSING PROGRAMS	$137,923,600		$138,423,600
Homeowner Rehab and Recon	$39,457,033		$39,957,033
Single-Family New Const Dev	$59,009,534		$59,009,534
Affordable Rental Housing Dev	$39,457,033		$39,457,033
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM	$91,279,335		$91,279,335
Port Facilities	$0		$0
Public Facilities	$58,881,508	($19,565,454.32)	$39,316,053.68
Roads	$10,650,000	$6,325,166.00	$16,975,166
Utilities	$21,747,827	$13,240,288.32	$34,988,115.32
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	$8,660,000		$8,660,000
ADMINISTRATION	$12,617,718		$12,617,718
PLANNING	$3,843,347		$3,343,347

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Figure 22. **Proposed Projects and Estimated Budgets.** *This details the specific budgets of HUD-funded activities.*

PROGRAMS	TOTAL ALLOCATION	PERCENT OF TOTAL ALLOCATION BY PROGRAM	TOTAL ALLOCATION BY PROJECT TYPE
HOUSING (includes delivery costs)	$138,423,600		
Homeowner Rehabilitation & Reconstruction	$39,957,033	29%	54%
Single Family New Construction Development	$59,009,534	43%	
Affordable Rental Housing Development	$39,457,033	29%	
SUB TOTAL HOUSING	**$138,423,600**	**100%**	
INFRASTRUCTURE	**$91,279,335**		
Port Facilities	$0	0%	36%
Public Facilities	$39,316,053.68	43%	
Roads	$16,975,166	19%	
Utilities	$34,988,115.32	38%	
SUB TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**$91,279,335**	**100%**	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	$8,660,000	100%	3%
ADMINISTRATION	$12,617,718	100%	5%
PLANNING	$3,343,347	100%	2%
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS OF FUNDS	**$254,324,000**	**100%**	**100%**

Page 84
a. Allocation Amount

PROPOSED PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST
Port Facilities	**$0**
Public Facilities	$39,316,053.68
Roads	$16,975,166
Utilities	$34,988,115.32
TOTAL FOR INFRASTRUCTURE	$91,279,355
Performance Outcome	About 20-30 public facilities will be assisted

Written comments must reference "CNMI Action Plan – Substantial Amendment No. 04" and are due by November 16, 2024 and may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

[1] **A substantial amendment** is defined as a change in program benefit or eligibility criteria; the addition or deletion of an activity; or the allocation or reallocation of a monetary threshold specified by the grantee in its action plan. The CNMI monetary threshold for a substantial amendment is any changes in Action Plan amounts that exceed $5 million. Substantial amendments are changes to an Action Plan which require a 30-day public comment period. All amendments will be listed on the CDBG-DR website sequentially.

NMC to host free Spring 2025 info session Saturday

Northern Marianas College would like to kindly remind and invite all community members looking to further their education to attend NMC's free information session regarding the upcoming Spring 2025 semester on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024.

The info session will be held at the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library at NMC's Campus in As Terlaje. Seats are limited on a first-come, first-served basis, with doors opening at 9:30am for registration. The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and the admissions process.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming Spring 2025 semester, a savings of about $75.

Incoming students who have previously attended any NMC Recruitment event for this year, are eligible to avail of the waiver fee once for the entire year, and do not need to attend this event.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Concentration in Accounting or without Concentration); Associate of Arts in Business, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications), Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (Emphasis in Education, Kinesiology, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without Emphasis), Associate of Science in Nursing, Associate of Science in Agriculture, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management. NMC's Spring 2025 semester will begin on Jan. 21, 2025. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

SHEFA application deadline on Feb. 28

To all new, ongoing, and returning applicants, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance would like to inform you that our Spring 2025 applications will be available online on Dec. 1, 2024 and the deadline to apply and submit supporting documents is on Feb. 28, 2025.

For more information and updates you can check our Facebook page at Saipan SHEFA or give us a call at (670) 233-5995. ***(PR)***

5th NOTICE OF OPEN AUCTION (RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

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Condition: Excellent
MINIMUM BID: $20,000.00

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres (or his designee), for and on behalf of the Bank of Guam, will sell at auction the abovementioned vehicle to the highest bidder on **November 25, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya.**

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the chattel mortgage (vehicle) listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such chattel mortgage (vehicle) is accepted;
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the chattel mortgage (vehicle) is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Minimum Bid. The minimum bid (re-announcement) for the sale of the abovementioned vehicle is **$20,000.00.** No advanced bids will be accepted. The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties. **Bidders must be present in person at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, 5960 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya at 10:00 a.m. to bid.** All bids less than $20,000.00 are rejected. Any person who registers his/her bid shall provide a vaild identification card (vaild CNMI Driver's License or Passport). The winning bidder shall be the person whom the vehicle is confirmed to, if the bid is accepted.
3. Payment. The entire purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. **Personal checks /company checks are not accepted.** All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check only. The Bank of Guam shall release the chattel mortgage to the winning bidder. Failure to make payment will result the winning bidder forfeiting his/her winning bid. The next highest bidder (minimum $20,000.00) may be awarded.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the term conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

DATED this 8th day of November, 2024.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

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Reserve your table today by calling (670) 488-1000 and make this Thanksgiving a moment to remember!
(We are located at the former Hyatt Regency Hotel.)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Not just bad guys: Trump deportations are coming for our law-abiding neighbors

In winning the solid majority of the voting public, Donald Trump would have added to that total plenty of non-citizen, undocumented immigrants had they been able to cast ballots (and no, there's no evidence that non-citizens voted) because he pledged his deportation plans would ship out the bad people, the murderers, rapists and drug lords.

Many immigrants believe that when Trump has talked about mass deportations, he doesn't mean them.

We hate to be the bearers of bad news, but this is not true. Not for the honest hardworking woman cleaning your home or the guy at your corner bodega or your undocumented longtime neighbor who's got a U.S. citizen spouse and kids, or even for the many immigrants around the country who hold statuses like TPS, parole or DACA.

The opposite is true; the Biden administration has reinstated an ICE enforcement prioritization scheme that puts national security threats and violent criminals at the top (that Trump always focuses on, including in his post-victory interview with NBC News), and instructs agents to largely steer clear of law-abiding and longtime residents. We say reinstated because Trump had terminated that approach, and he'll do it again, directing his agents to sweep up anyone without status, or even with statuses he doesn't like.

This could even go up to and include naturalized citizens. Trump immigration restriction guru Stephen Miller has been salivating over the prospect of a ramped up denaturalization force, which he said would be "turbocharged" under Trump.

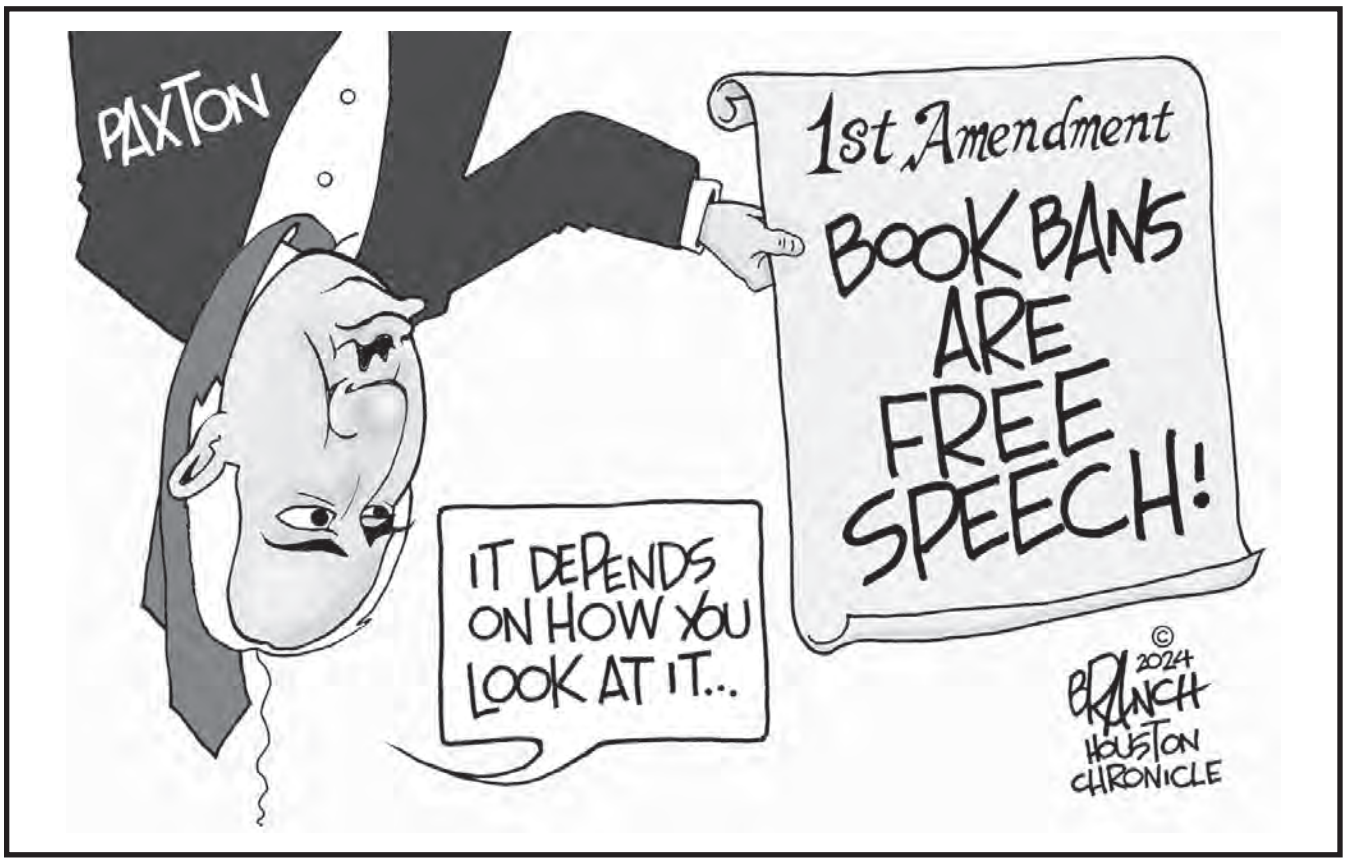
So the Justice Department would have personnel dedicated to stripping immigrants of U.S. citizenship for minor errors or discrepancies in their records, with the aim of eventually deporting them. These are not just "bad guys," but anyone they can get their hands on (other than friends like Elon Musk, of course, who almost certainly lied on his immigration forms after working in the country illegally).

Trump has said that he would end TPS protections for Haitians and probably hundreds of thousands from other countries. We know that this is not an empty threat because he tried to do this before. He'll do it with DACA and almost certainly with the parole programs that the Biden administration has put into place, involving hundreds of thousands more Cubans, Venezuelans, Nicaraguans, Ukrainians and others.

Trump has explicitly referenced the heavy-handed, deadly and relatively indiscriminate Eisenhower-era "Operation Wetback" as an inspiration for his crackdown. This effort was not marked by its restraint or its close targeting of criminals or even those that did not actually have status; hundreds of thousands were removed in the span of a few years including, as historians now agree, a number of U.S. citizens. This is what Miller and his pals are imagining when they talk about camps full of immigrants waiting to be expelled.

Speaking with NBC News, Trump referenced people who

See BAD GUYS on Page 9



Election day hangover (Part 1)

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is a former director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

I stopped drinking alcohol sometime back, so I haven't felt an actual "hangover" in a while; however, my recent shellacking in the race for CNMI delegate to U.S. Congress momentarily had me feeling (for lack of a better description) "hung over" on the morning after election day... emphasis on momentarily. For those who aren't familiar, a hangover is a kind of bodily storm of physical, mental, and emotional aches and pains. More specifically, I woke up on the morning after to a nauseating pit in my gut with pervasive feelings of self-loathing, shame and confusion. Dramatic (I know), but I seriously pondered a "hair-of-the-dog" wanting a quick way to feel a little better in that moment. Again, for those unfamiliar with sot lingo, "hair-of-the-dog" is a reference to the practice of drinking more alcohol to combat symptoms of being sick from drinking too much alcohol, a vicious cycle to say the least. To be clear (for those who may be wondering), I pondered and nearly cracked open a warm beer, but thought better of it and continue adding to my number of days in sobriety, an essential factor in my original objective of wanting to become a better version of myself. Generally speaking, alcohol is best served cold and for celebratory reasons though it all too often gets paired with commisery (my own word for commiserating and misery).

I suppose in the excitement (or rather chaos of mixed emotions) throughout the campaign I didn't realize just how invested I'd become. Worst of all, my lingering fear of letting down so many of those nearest and dearest to me came true. One friend of mine pointedly said, "You need to think about how I feel wasting my vote on you?" Yes. I said friend; in fact, I'd go so far as to say a very good friend. He would follow it up with, "I have never felt more gratified and satisfied in voting for a losing candidate. I was honored to vote for you." Effectively, he left what amounts to a *small* (emphasis added) footprint on my behind and a goofy smile on my face. Laughing in the face of failure can be very therapeutic. I can't help but chuckle more now at the thought of being even slightly rattled by the outcome and the whole experience of my run for congress.

Election night essentially amounted to what was an adrenaline dump—the likes of which I had never experienced. I was intensely drained from months of self-inflicted public scrutiny to a sudden anti-climate end which felt oddly similar to a morning after a stupid night of bar hopping. Although I was only ever cautiously optimistic about our chances, I (subconsciously or otherwise) had already begun a deep dive into fixating on how I would bring to fruition (through the delegate's office) all the things I and the rest of the candidates had been talking about on the campaign trail. Having to suddenly let go of those thoughts and ideas is something akin to what I imagine people in this day and age feel when losing a smart phone or having a computer crash—let's say, anxiety-inducing somewhere between anger and depression. Truthfully, I am a bit envious of congresswoman-elect, Kim King-Hinds, with her new purpose and awesome opportunity to shape a higher standard of living for all who call the CNMI home. Still, I am genuinely pulling for her to be at her best—no doubt the learning curve for her and the rest of her team will be steep. I can only imagine how invigorating the whole experience must be.

The further truth is (personal ego aside) the positives from this experience far outweigh the negatives for me personally and, I dare say, for the whole process in general.

For starters, this whole adventure began for me with, "an old man trying to be a better version of himself and wanting to give back in return." I'll have to find another way to give back, but I do believe I am a better man today because (against all odds) I actually put everything on the line for me personally with genuine intentions to reach for meaning far bigger than myself. To say I took a risk (on multiple levels) would be an understatement, but... "Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far they can go." Personally, I love a good underdog story—and for the record, I never had any grand delusions of being anything but a long shot in the race though I admittedly hoped to have a stronger showing at the polls—"no risk, no reward."

In the bigger picture, I'd like to believe that I contributed positively, at least as food-for-thought, to the conversations about the so-called issues and to the importance of (if not insistence on) civility. Importantly as well, I think I brought what essentially was an unscripted reminder that our democratic process is open to even the least connected, most underfunded citizens among us. Even a relative unknown, "unconnected" person like me can get on a ballot for a seat in U.S. Congress and, although the votes didn't show it, I was a mere inch or two away (on the ballot) from an upset of epic proportions. Ultimately, everyone only had one vote in this race and it should come as no surprise that I was not the first option for most, but I'd bet the house that I was a close second for many. OK, maybe that's just my way of making myself feel better… guess we'll never know.

I can see in the pitying looks from people in the community and I can read between the lines of messages from well wishers after the election that people feel badly, if not sorry, for me. And yes, I had an involuntary (albeit momentary) lapse of strength and resilience—a moment of self-pity, if you—but I'll say this, it is better to have run and lost than to have never run at all. Onward and upward.

How will Donald Trump handle the war in Ukraine?

By DANIEL DEPETRIS
Chicago Tribune

Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

At a time when its forces continue to lose ground in the east and its capital city is bombarded with Russian attack drones on a near-daily basis, the last thing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy needed was another thing to worry about. But that's precisely what he got last Tuesday, when former President Donald Trump wiped the floor with Vice President Kamala Harris to reclaim the presidency. Ukrainian officials are now asking the inevitable question: How will Trump manage the war in Ukraine?

The conventional wisdom is that Trump, fresh off a resounding victory, will throw Ukraine under the bus by pressuring Kyiv to sign a settlement that will hand over a fifth of its territory to the Russians and de jure legitimize Russian President Vladimir Putin's war of aggression. Indeed, this was a big talking point for Harris throughout the campaign. Many foreign policy experts in Washington, D.C., have frequently raised concerns about Trump's personal infatuation with Putin clouding his judgment. At times, Trump's own words appeared to back this up; he has suggested that Zelenskyy is not only taking U.S. military support for granted but also started the war in the first place.

Yet it's important to state one fundamental fact up front: None of us know what Trump has in mind for the war in Ukraine. This will cause scowls and sighs among Beltway elites who think they can read Trump's mind. But all we really have are words from the president-elect who, frankly, is prone to changing his mind depending on the situation he confronts at any given time and the advisers who happen to be sitting in the room.

Besides insisting that he could resolve the nearly three-year-old war in a day, none of us know what Trump's plans are. He has never talked about the war in great depth, let alone put forth a concrete proposal with specifics. Of course, you wouldn't expect Trump to do such a thing anyway; it would serve little benefit during an election that largely centered on domestic policy issues like inflation and the state of American democracy. The other reason, though, is because Trump doesn't want to box himself in before he even begins talking with the main players.

This doesn't mean that Trump's advisers haven't dipped their toes into the peace pool. A number of peace plans have been pitched to the president-elect, all of which center on ending the fighting along the 620-mile front line. In September, Vice President-elect JD Vance offered up some baseline terms: an immediate cease-fire, to be accompanied by a European-enforced demilitarized zone, Russia retaining the land it currently occupies and Ukraine being fortified to the point where the Russian army would be deterred from launching another offensive. Keith Kellogg and Fred Fleitz, who served in the first Trump administration, sent Trump a paper offering ways to pressure both Ukraine and Russia into peace talks. Another proposal would install a demilitarized zone along the front line, delay Ukraine's accession into NATO for 20 years and arm the Ukrainian army over the long term. The common thread unifying all of these different ideas is a desire to, at the very least, pause the war as soon as possible, a paradigm shift in the current U.S. approach, which aims to maintain U.S. military support to boost Kyiv's prospects on the battlefield.

To what extent is Trump paying attention to any of these plans? Naturally, it's difficult to say. What we do know is that he views the war as a drain on the U.S. taxpayer, doesn't believe the Ukrainians can win it and likely perceives the war as a golden opportunity for him to demonstrate his prowess (real or perceived) as a negotiator who can hammer out deals in the most difficult of circumstances. It only took Trump a few days before he called both Zelenskyy and Putin.

In terms of foreign policy priorities, solving Ukraine is at the top of Trump's list. But trying to dissect his game plan is about as pointless as trying to predict what the weather is going to be in a month's time. It's wasted energy, and with a guy like Trump, what seems certain today could just as easily unravel tomorrow.

The more useful effort is to forget about what Trump may or may not do and focus instead on how the war in Ukraine is actually playing out. Ultimately, what is and isn't possible at the negotiating table will be determined by where the front lines are at any given time, which side (Russia or Ukraine) is on the upswing and who has more resources at their disposal to sustain the fight. While the Russians are taking a beating in the field — the U.K. chief of defense staff commented that October was the deadliest month for the Russian army since the war began — they are still on the offensive in the Donbas, where Ukrainian forces are valiantly resisting but struggling to stop a Russian war machine that is more than willing to throw tens of thousands of men into the meat grinder for the sake of a few dozen kilometers. The Ukrainians don't have the luxury of matching the Russians man-for-man, tank-for-tank and plane-for-plane. Indeed, Ukraine's manpower problems are getting more pronounced as the war goes on. Zelenskyy is faced with two unpalatable choices: start drafting young men between the ages of 18 and 22 into the Ukrainian army's ranks, jeopardizing the country's already shaky demographics; or avoid a politically unpopular full-scale mobilization and watch as Ukrainian defensive lines continue to crack.

Whatever Trump decides to do will need to be based on reality, not fairy-tale cheerleading from pundits who equate an imperfect peace with outright surrender.

Red Caesarism—Trump's loyalty catechism abysm

A republic with democracy or sycophantic cacocracy

Cacocracy is a term that means, "government by the worst people" or "rule by the incompetent." It is derived from the Greek words kakos (bad) and kratos (power, rule). Cacocracy is a form of government that is characterized by corruption, nepotism, incompetence, inefficiency, injustice, and tyranny. Does that sound like the felon just elected POTUS?

Trump again? A gain? Or a loss?

(a dangerous demagogic dictator boss)

Don't most people already know what we got
A convicted felon, twice impeached, ill man
For voters who didn't read or watch, probably not
Regardless of his lies, insults, and defamation plan
POTUS 45 is a force majeure MAGA monstrosity
What about his life's work for the past fifty years
For both business and democracy 45 is an atrocity
Bankruptcies, insulting heroes, ruining careers
What about his VP wannabe hillbilly, J.D. Vance
How long will he be able to straddle Trump's fence
For four years and then make a White House advance
Or wind up threatened and abandoned like VP Pence
We are a constitutional republic based on democracy
POTUS Trump 47 wants a sycophantic cacocracy.

Magamandias—the 47th king of bling

(a parody of Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem Ozymandias)

"My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings, look on my Works, Ye Mighty, and despair!" Next the narrator comments about Ozymandias brag. He says there's nothing left of the statue commemorating the dead King except a few stones in the sand.

"Nothing beside remains, Round the decay of that colossal Wreck,

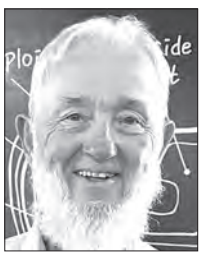
Boundless and bare, the lone level sands stretch far away"- excerpt.

My name is Magamandias, the 47th King of Bling
Listen to me you'll see and hear wonderful things
Watch my fantastic documentary or video meme
It is purported to be a realistic film not AI grown
About my great grandiose US presidential scheme
The first 4 then 4 more years more billions blown
I lied, I tried, I fought for it again and again and
With the help of other billionaires, I took command
I never listened to oral reports, no books were read
Congress mocked and impeached me, I never bled
And what did millions of my MAGA red hats hear
More insults anger and hatred and they held it dear
I'm Donald J. Trump the 47th King of All Bling
Give me your money, you have nothing to fear.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Navigating toward prosperity

Dear CNMI community,

The political landscape is shifting significantly across the U.S. and its territories, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is no exception. These changes are especially apparent as the U.S. administration deepens its strategic commitments in the Indo-Pacific region, establishing an expanded military presence in the CNMI and surrounding areas. This development reflects growing geopolitical concerns, as the U.S. strengthens its reach and capabilities to address potential conflicts in the region, particularly those involving major powers like China. While this military buildup offers strategic benefits, it also brings complex implications for the islands' economy and social dynamics.

Meanwhile, the CNMI is facing substantial economic challenges due to restrictions on tourism, a market that has long been a primary source of revenue and employment for the islands. The tourism sector in the CNMI, built around visitors from Asia, especially China, is a significant contributor to local livelihoods. This downturn in tourism revenue has ripple effects, impacting businesses, reducing job opportunities, and straining government resources. The economic impact is not only immediate but also raises concerns about the CNMI's ability to sustain its economic health without this critical stream of visitors.

In light of these circumstances, essential questions arise: Could the CNMI attract new visitors from markets like Japan, South Korea, Australia, or even Europe? What strategies might be effective in drawing tourists from these regions, given the competitive global tourism industry? And if such an influx is feasible, when might these efforts yield visible results? Relying solely on the traditional tourism model may no longer be sustainable, prompting the need to consider both diversification within the tourism sector and alternative economic opportunities.

More urgently, has the CNMI administration reached out to the Biden administration or the Department of Defense to request economic assistance to offset the current downturn? With the federal government's expanded interest in the region, there may be opportunities for financial support or development programs tied to the increased military presence. Similarly, has the CNMI Legislature considered a proactive approach in seeking federal support, whether through grants, economic relief packages, or infrastructure investment that could stimulate the local economy?

Addressing these questions is essential for shaping a resilient and adaptive economic strategy for the CNMI. How the CNMI navigates this period of transition will play a critical role in determining the territory's long-term stability and prosperity. The answers will not only influence the islands' immediate recovery but will also determine the CNMI's economic trajectory in the face of ongoing global and regional challenges.

As citizens of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, we bear the responsibility of demanding transparency and accountability from those who seek to lead us.

Thank you for your time and attention. Let us remain vigilant and committed to holding our leaders accountable.

Frankie Manglona
Dandan Village

BAD GUYS

From page 8

"have killed and murdered" and "drug lords," but that simply doesn't square with the idea of a mass deportation of millions of people, one he said would have "no price tag."

We can all get behind going after murderers and drug lords, but there really aren't all that many out there. This pledge is a promise to go after everyone, destroying neighborhoods and economies and sweeping up a lot of people who felt that they would not be targeted.

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Business

Takayama: Where flavor meets affordability

By JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
jercymaximo05@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Nestled in an unassuming corner of Garapan along Middle Road, Takayama is making waves among food lovers seeking both quality and affordability. The restaurant, which began a dry run last Sept. 5, is helmed by a chef who started his culinary journey on the island, offering a menu that balances creativity and approachability.

Takayama's offerings include a variety of dishes, with bestsellers like sushi, sushi cakes, beef pares, crispy pata kare kare, and Hawaiian poke. Other standouts include sizzling squid, sizzling finger steak, salmon, and unagi nigiri. During my visit, the loco moco with rice, mixed tempura, and beef short ribs with rice all showcased the kitchen's focus on bold, satisfying flavors.

The loco moco, a Hawaiian-inspired dish, stood out with its juicy, tender beef layered under savory gravy, perfectly paired with rice and egg. The mixed tempura offered a crispy, light contrast, with seafood and vegetables fried to perfection. Meanwhile, the beef short ribs with rice provided a rich, comforting experience, each bite practically melting off the bone.

JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
Takayama, a Filipino-Japanese fusion restaurant, is conveniently located on Middle Road in Garapan, near Spices Super Store and Vision Home Appliance and Furniture.

JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
The vibrant interior of Takayama, a Filipino-Japanese fusion restaurant, showcases hand-written menus, eclectic decor, and lush greenery, creating a warm and inviting dining atmosphere.

Takayama's cozy setup, with five tables seating a total of 20 guests, lends an intimacy to the dining experience. Its split hours—from 10am to 2pm and from 5pm to 9pm—make it a convenient choice for both lunch and dinner.

The brains behind this new venture is co-owner Venus Magno Angeles and her business partner. Originally from Bacolod City, Negros Occidental in the Philippines, Angeles drew on her extensive experience in the food industry and customer service to realize her long-held dream.

"I've worked in the industry since 1994, and over the years, my passion for food and creating great customer experiences grew stronger," she shared. Although initially hesitant to open her own business, she ultimately embraced the challenge. "I knew that if I didn't take the leap, I would never know what could be possible."

Starting Takayama came with hurdles, including finding a location, securing funding, and building a customer base. "At first, it was just friends and family, but through strategic marketing and word-of-mouth, we gradually started attracting more customers," Angeles said. She credits careful planning, persistence, and a commitment to excellent customer service as key to overcoming these challenges.

Launching during tough economic times was a calculated risk, but Angeles saw an opportunity. "Despite the challenges, I believed the community was ready for something new. Economic downturns can push people to seek comfort in good food, and we aimed to provide that while offering value," she noted. Takayama's fusion of Japanese and Filipino influences stands out by blending traditional flavors with innovative twists.

Angeles chose Japanese cuisine because of her team's strong background in Japanese culinary techniques. "We've always been drawn to the precision and artistry of Japanese cooking," she said. However, Takayama incorporates Filipino influences, creating a fusion that combines the best of both worlds. "It's about offering something familiar yet fresh, providing our customers with a unique dining experience."

For those eager to explore Takayama's offerings, the restaurant can be reached at (670) 286-9378. It's located beside the Spices Super Store and Vision Home Appliance and Furniture across the NMI Museum of History and Culture.

Trump has promised to 'save TikTok.' What happens next is less clear

After a tumultuous year filled with anxiety and a legal battle about its future in the U.S., TikTok may have just been thrown a lifeline by the man who was once its biggest foe: Donald Trump.

President-elect Trump, who tried to ban the social media platform the last time he was in the White House, has repeatedly pledged during his most recent campaign to oppose a ban on the short-form video app, which could happen as soon as mid-January if the company loses a court case that's currently underway in Washington.

For months, TikTok, and its China-based parent company ByteDance, have been embroiled in a legal battle with the U.S. over a federal law that forces them to cut ties for national security reasons or stop operating in one of their biggest markets in the world. The measure, signed by President Joe Biden in April, gives ByteDance nine months to divest its stakes, with a possible three-month extension if a sale was in progress. If that happens, the deadline could be extended into the first 100 days of Trump's presidency.

The companies have claimed that divestiture is not possible, and the law, if upheld, would force them to shut down by Jan. 19, just a day before Trump's second inauguration. Attorneys for both sides have asked a federal appeals court reviewing the case to issue a ruling by Dec. 6. The losing side is expected to appeal to the Supreme Court, which has a conservative majority and could decide to take up the case, potentially dragging out the process even longer.

When reached for comment, the Trump transition team did not offer details on how Trump plans to carry out his pledge to "save TikTok," as he said on a Truth Social post in September while encouraging people who care about the platform to vote for him. But Karoline Leavitt, a spokeswoman for the transition team, indicated in a statement that he plans to see it through.

"The American people re-elected President Trump by a resounding margin giving him a mandate to implement the promises he made on the campaign trail," Leavitt said. "He will deliver."

During a March interview with CNBC, Trump said he still believed TikTok posed a national security risk but opposed banning it because doing so would help its rival, Facebook, which he has continued to lambast over his 2020 election loss. He also denied changing his mind on the issue because of Republican megadonor Jeff Yass, a ByteDance investor that Trump, at the time, said that he had only met "very briefly." ***(AP)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of November 15, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Marianas Surf Skate League, Inc. (MSSL)	9/24/2024 SSLRm-2024-086	Boogie Down Surf Competition	Obyan Beach, Saipan	Shoreline and Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 11/08/2024
2.	Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	10/29/2024 SSm-2025-005	Temporary Beachfront Concession	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 11/06/2024
3.	Vista Homes, LLC.	10/30/2024 SMS-2025-006	Construction of 46-Unit, two story Residential Duplex Apartments	Dandan, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing* 12/10/2024

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB25-DPW/TSD-42500012

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 06, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"A.) PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "E" VEHICLES
B.) PURCHASE OF THREE (3) CLASS "F" VEHICLES
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TECHNICAL SERVICE DIVISION (HIGHWAY SECTION), SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG. NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, MS. LORRAINE S. VILLAGOMEZ AT LVILLAGOMEZ.HIGHWAY@DPW.GOV.MP OR KENN ALDAN AT KLADPWTSD@GMAIL.COM.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
Acting Director, PS

Life & Style

John Krasinski named *People* magazine's 2024 Sexiest Man Alive

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Let the office debates begin—John Krasinski is *People* magazine's Sexiest Man Alive for 2024.

The magazine announced the actor-writer-director as its pick Tuesday night during "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

Krasinski starred in "The Office" before launching the "Quiet Place" franchise and leading the action series "Jack Ryan." He joked in an interview with the magazine that he's hoping his wife, fellow actor Emily Blunt, makes good on a promise to plaster the cover as wallpaper at their home.

AP

Director John Krasinski poses for photographers upon arrival at the UK Premiere of the film 'IF' in London, May 7, 2024

He takes the mantle from last year's honoree, Patrick Dempsey.

Krasinski, 45, told *People* that his immediate reaction to the honor was "just immediate blackout, actually. Zero thoughts." He added that he thought he might be getting pranked.

He burst to fame playing the floppy-haired, lanky Jim on the U.S. version of the mockumentary "The Office," and transitioned into the clean-cut, muscular action star on Amazon's "Jack Ryan," playing the Tom Clancy character previously portrayed by Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Ben Affleck on the big screen. He also co-wrote, directed and starred in "A Quiet Place," which has grown into a three-film franchise, and created the short-lived but immensely popular pandemic-era web-series "Some Good News."

Earlier this year, he debuted his sixth directorial effort, "IF," a film about imaginary friends that also featured Blunt.

The couple have two daughters together.

Krasinski told *People* in the issue that's on newsstands on Friday that the honor is likely to result in more than just jokes at home.

"I think it's going to make me do more household chores," he quipped.

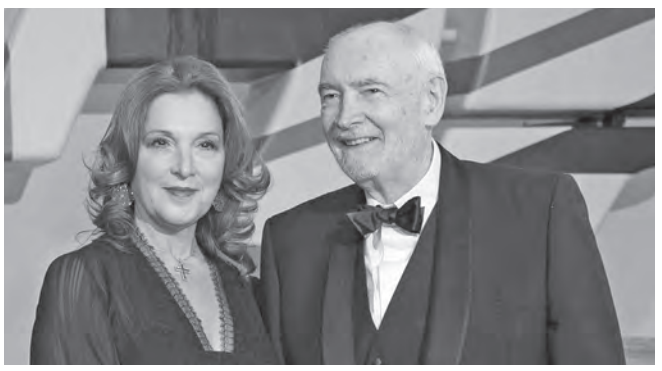
On the eve of Oscars honor, James Bond producers reflect on legacy and future of 007

For the late James Bond producer Albert "Cubby" Broccoli, receiving the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award was a true high point in his career. He said as much accepting the prize, a non-competitive honorary Oscar, at the Academy Awards in 1982.

Roger Moore presented it to him that night while his family in the audience looked on, including his daughter, Barbara Broccoli, who was reduced to a puddle of tears, and her brother, Michael G. Wilson.

"He always treasured it," Barbara Broccoli said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "It was the most important physical possession he had."

The award, then a bust of the inimitable "boy wonder" producer of Hollywood's early years, sat on his mantlepiece for many years. Now, Broccoli, 64, and Wilson, 82, are following in "Cubby's" footsteps as the 40th recipients, collecting the Oscar statuette Sunday at the 15th Governors Awards in Hollywood.



AP

Barbara Broccoli, left, and Michael G. Wilson appear at the World premiere of the film "No Time To Die" in London on Sept. 28, 2021.

"It's a rare honor, and I think that makes it extra special," Wilson said.

Since its inception in 1937, the award has only been given 39 times, celebrating creative producers for a lifetime of quality films. The roster of honorees is a who's-who of Hollywood legends from David O. Selznick and Walt Disney to Steven Spielberg and George Lucas. And only once before Broccoli has it gone to a woman, Kathleen Kennedy in 2018.

Thailand's baby pygmy hippo Moo Deng now has an official song in 4 languages

BANGKOK (AP)—In case you can't get enough of the little pygmy hippo Moo Deng from Thailand, there's now an official song featuring the internet's favorite baby animal—released in four languages for her global fans.

The upbeat 50-second song "Moodeng Moodeng," available in Thai, English, Chinese and Japanese versions, features simple lyrics like "Moo Deng Moo Deng, boing boing boing/ Mommy mommy, play with me." Its music video consists of short clips of the baby hippo bouncing, playing with her keeper or hanging out with her mom Jona.

The catchy number was produced and written by well-known Thai composer Mueanphet Ammara, and released by one of Thailand's largest music companies, GMM Music.

Moo Deng—the name literally means "bouncy pork," a type of meatball, in Thai—became a global phenomenon just a month after she was unveiled on Facebook by the Khao Kheow Open Zoo in Thailand's southern Chon Buri province.

Fans say her name compliments her chaotic personality. Moo Deng likes to "deng," or bounce, and her giddy bouncing has appeared all over social media in countless memes. Her image has been used by sports teams and businesses.

The hippo, now 4 months old, has drawn a huge amount of visitors to the zoo, which is around two-hour drive away from the capital Bangkok. The zoo estimated it has received 3,000 to 5,000 visitors a day on average in the past few months, and it's selling clothes, bedding and other merchandise based on Moo Deng.

AP

Two-month-old baby hippo Moo Deng walks at the Khao Kheow Open Zoo in Chonburi province, Thailand, Sept. 19, 2024.

Dad frustrated that daughter refuses to see the truth

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Virginia," age 27, lives with her boyfriend, "Ray," on the East Coast and teaches kindergarten. Last month, she confided that she had caught him cheating. She saw texts on his phone. When she confronted him, Ray immediately confessed and was very apologetic, but he also kept the woman's number in his phone.

Ray will soon be moving to another state, and her job will end in about three weeks. Virginia is seriously considering going with him and has also mentioned marriage. Her mother and I are divorced due to her mother's infidelity, but we agree that we will counsel her not to stay with him. Although he took responsibility, cheating is destructive in any serious relationship.

I have gone back and forth with Virginia via email, but sometimes she stops communicating. I haven't been harsh, but I did ask her why Ray would keep the other woman's number unless he wanted to remain in contact with her.

Can you think of anything else a worried dad can do to help the situation? Obviously, Virginia can ignore parental advice and do what she wants. I am also wondering what I can say to Ray when I see him next. I neither want to give him a pass nor condemn him as a monster.

STRONG DAD IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DAD: Talk with your daughter, face-to-face if possible. Tell her that, as an adult, she can do what she wants, but as a caring parent, you cannot stay silent. Remind her that Ray KEPT THE OTHER WOMAN'S NUMBER, which means he intends at some point to contact her. Explain that, to you, this means he is less committed to your daughter than he should be.

As to what you might say to Virginia's boyfriend, tell him you are disgusted by his selfishness and dishonesty, and he doesn't deserve your daughter. If you have any more thoughts on the subject you would like to share, feel free to air them.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: What would you say about a man who offered his wife's siblings an all-expense-paid trip to Paris, knowing that his wife could not consider going on such a trip because of mobility issues?

Full disclosure: The husband and wife have been to Paris in the past (when the wife's health was OK), but the husband feels the need to go again and has no one else to accompany him. His wife will be left home alone to fend for herself. Somehow, this whole deal leaves a bad taste in my mouth. Please set me straight.

HOMEBODY IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR HOMEBODY: People with physical disabilities travel internationally all the time. If the husband has the money to take his wife's siblings on an all-expense paid trip to Paris, surely he could afford to take his wife AND A CAREGIVER with him on that trip down memory lane. That way, she would be looked after and still be able to enjoy the trip to the degree that she's able. Has no one suggested it besides me?

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

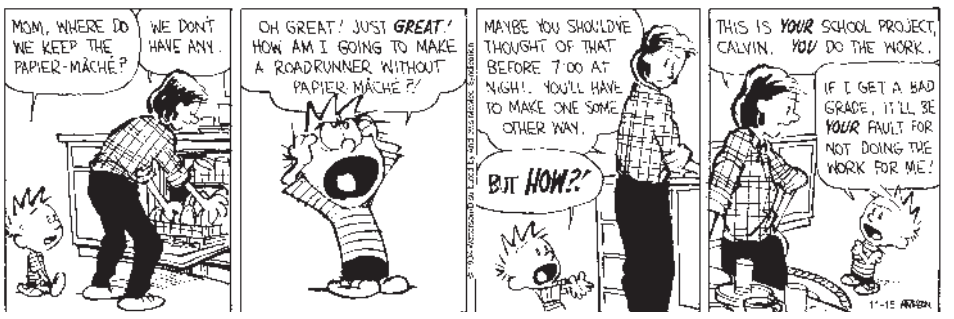
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM, WHERE DO WE KEEP THE PAPIER-MÂCHÉ?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY.
OH GREAT! JUST GREAT! HOW AM I GOING TO MAKE A ROADRUNNER WITHOUT PAPIER-MÂCHÉ?!
MAYBE YOU SHOULDVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE 7:00 AT NIGHT. YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE ONE SOME OTHER WAY.
BUT HOW?!
THIS IS YOUR SCHOOL PROJECT, CALVIN. YOU DO THE WORK.
IF I GET A BAD GRADE, IT'LL BE YOUR FAULT FOR NOT DOING THE WORK FOR ME!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OH, OKAY. SO YOU'LL REWRITE THAT PART, PLUS THE FIRST PART AND THE END PART.
CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION? WHY HIRE ME IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE EVERYTHING?
MM-HMM. I SEE. WELL, THAT'S HONEST.
WHAT'D HE SAY?
HE ENJOYS "TOYING WITH ME LIKE A SPIDER IN A TOILET."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HELLO, TECH SUPPORT.
YES, MY COMPUTER IS SHOWING AN E0S2X6 ERROR.
OH, MY GOSH! THIS IS TERRIBLE! JUST AWFUL NEWS!
IS IT THAT BAD?
NO, NOT YOU. I SPILLED ROOT BEER ON MY GAMING CONSOLE.
UNDERSTOOD. I'LL CALL BACK.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

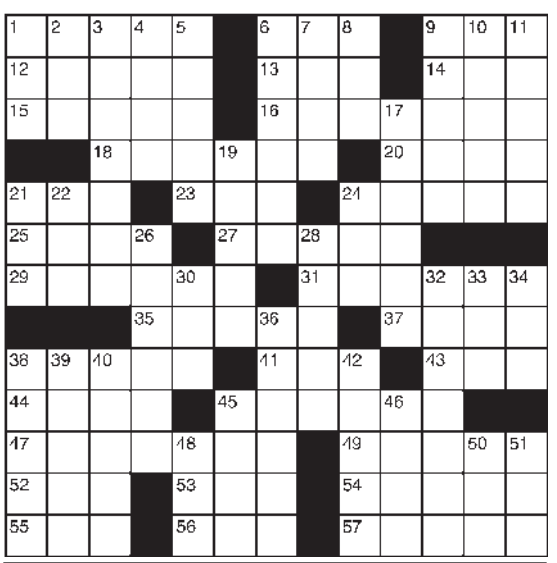
ACROSS
1 Pizzazz
6 Slump
9 Govt. lender for a start-up
12 — Lumpur
13 Tax prep pro
14 Mangy mutt
15 Scatter about
16 "Otello" composer
18 Start, as a hobby
20 Musical finale
21 Avril follower
23 Santa's helper
24 Trousers
25 Terse warning
27 Pursuing
29 Vail feature
31 French tower designer
35 Tennis great Agassi
37 Ward of "Sisters"
38 Mirror's offering
41 Pac. counterpart
43 Arcing tennis shot
44 Crèche group
45 Instruct
47 Mushroom in a risotto recipe
49 Life stories
52 Before
53 Scot's denial
54 Musical sounds
55 Recline
56 "Fresh Air" airer
57 Parisian river

DOWN
1 Approves
2 Chic no more
3 007's cocktail
4 Entreaty
5 Ethan of "Boyhood"
6 Back of the neck
7 Each
8 Helium, for one
9 Offspring
10 Type of cake pan
11 Diva's solos
17 Devours, with "down"
19 Serengeti antelope
21 ER workers
22 Fine, at NASA
24 JFK Library architect
26 Very sad
28 Gear parts
30 French article
32 "La Dolce Vita" director
33 "Evil Woman" gp.
34 Science room
36 More risque
38 Spur on
39 New Zealand native
40 Concur
42 Ransacks
45 Lose it
46 Bassoon relative
48 Hostel
50 X, at times
51 Away from NNW

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	I	N	G		F	R	A		C	H	O	S
E	S	A	U		R	E	V		O	R	S	O
A	L	A	I		O	D	E		R	O	S	A
L	A	N	D	A	U		C	O	N	N	O	R
			E	L	F			N	E	T		
D	E	F	S		R	E	F	O	R	M	E	D
O	R	R			O	E	R			A	N	I
S	A	O	P	A	U	L	O		A	N	T	S
		S	E	I			I	D	S			
I	A	I	A	M	I		H	A	S	S	L	E
A	M	I	R		M	A	I		U	N	I	T
K	C	C	L		A	N	N		M	O	N	A
E	R	R	S		N	O	G		E	W	E	S

Yesterday's answer 11-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shailene Woodley, 33; Jonny Lee Miller, 52; Beverly D'Angelo, 73; Sam Waterston, 84.

Happy Birthday: Turn this year into something beautiful. Transitioning from where you are to where you want to be will manifest into peace of mind, high energy and personal gain. Planning carefully and incorporating minimalism into your everyday life can enrich your lifestyle without dampening your budget. Put your energy into what matters most, and consider journeys that lead to enlightenment, travel and mastering skills. Romance and self-improvement are favored. Your numbers are 4, 15, 22, 27, 33, 41, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Concentrate on learning, researching, getting your facts straight and keeping situations in perspective. Don't jeopardize your health or let anyone talk you into making a physical change. Stick to what you know best and complete what needs to get done. Be true to yourself and make physical fitness mandatory. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Reevaluate your lifestyle and consider what's next. Check your options, get certified for whatever you want to pursue or revamp your skills to apply them to something that motivates you. Change what you don't like or are tired of doing and replace it with what makes you happy. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Check the information you receive before sharing. Be discreet; it's best to have everything in place and functional before you share it with others. Put your energy into making things happen instead of talking about your dreams. Discipline regarding health and financial matters will be necessary. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Adjusting your routine will help you finish things on time. Pay attention to detail and offer to spend only what's necessary. Showing others how efficient you can be will help you advance. Be direct; both business and personal relationships will improve with honesty and equality. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Action speaks louder than words. Get things done and head into the weekend filled with gratitude. There is power in knowing that you've done your best. An interesting suggestion will encourage you to address something that concerns you. You can make a difference to someone or something you care about. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Experience things firsthand, and you'll benefit from each encounter. Getting information and feedback from a direct source will help you expedite your plans succinctly and encourage the best results. Someone close to you will overreact or exaggerate, or an estimate you receive will be over market value. Get additional quotes. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Fill your head with information. Sign up for a lecture or course, or let travel lead to insight and life choices you haven't been exposed to before. Today is all about expansion, gaining perspective and considering what you want to do next. Follow your heart instead of letting someone make choices for you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Share your thoughts and plans with like-minded people, and the back-and-forth will help you adjust to a lifestyle that offers personal gain, contentment and plenty of room for growth. Let go of what's no longer applicable and embrace the future optimistically. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be aware of what's happening around you. Absorb information and consider every angle before signing up for something with hidden costs. Time is on your side; checking out all the possibilities and weighing the pros and cons will ensure no one takes advantage of you. Listen and observe. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Stick to statistics, truth and facts. Someone will make you look bad if you give them the chance. Do something honorable or help a cause that touches your heart. Host an event or do what you can to adapt your life and surroundings to accommodate your goals. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Explore what's possible. Take the path of least resistance. If you make changes without proper preparation, you will face setbacks and personal interference from someone you least expect. Leave no room for error before you present and promote what you have to offer. Choose your words wisely. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Problems with friends, relatives, neighbors and those you live with will surface. Don't share personal information or promise the impossible. Look inward and concentrate on self-improvement, personal gain and decluttering. It's time to make your life easier, more affordable and less entrenched in drama. Choose peace and love over chaos. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, creative and disciplined. You are proactive and observant.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						4		
		6		4		7		3
3				8				1
		9		3				8
7	5	8			2		1	
		1					2	
	4	5			8			
1		3		2			4	5
	9				6			2

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	6	2	8	3	7	5	9	1
7	8	3	9	5	1	6	2	4
9	5	1	6	4	2	7	8	3
2	7	8	3	1	6	4	5	9
1	9	6	5	7	4	2	3	8
5	3	4	2	9	8	1	6	7
6	2	7	4	8	3	9	1	5
8	4	9	1	2	5	3	7	6
3	1	5	7	6	9	8	4	2

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/14

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THAT PECKISH FEELING Solution: 6 letters

S	U	O	I	T	C	A	R	F	I	X	I	N	G	S
L	F	A	M	I	S	H	E	D	Y	K	N	A	R	C
E	E	V	E	N	T	S	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	R
E	E	M	O	S	E	L	T	T	E	N	N	E	T	A
P	L	U	N	C	H	Y	O	J	N	E	W	A	S	T
I	I	D	R	A	I	N	E	D	E	R	S	R	E	C
N	N	Ⓔ	Ⓐ	Ⓣ	R	J	E	D	E	T	I	O	G	H
G	G	F	E	O	A	V	H	S	E	N	H	M	I	Y
N	N	R	W	D	O	S	T	U	G	C	I	A	D	H
I	I	E	E	U	I	A	E	E	N	T	A	D	I	C
V	G	D	R	G	U	R	S	U	C	G	I	T	N	U
R	G	N	G	R	I	T	M	I	N	H	R	M	N	O
A	A	U	A	S	N	A	C	K	S	G	Y	Y	E	R
T	L	N	E	H	C	T	I	K	Y	P	M	U	R	G
S	T	D	R	O	T	A	R	E	G	I	R	F	E	R

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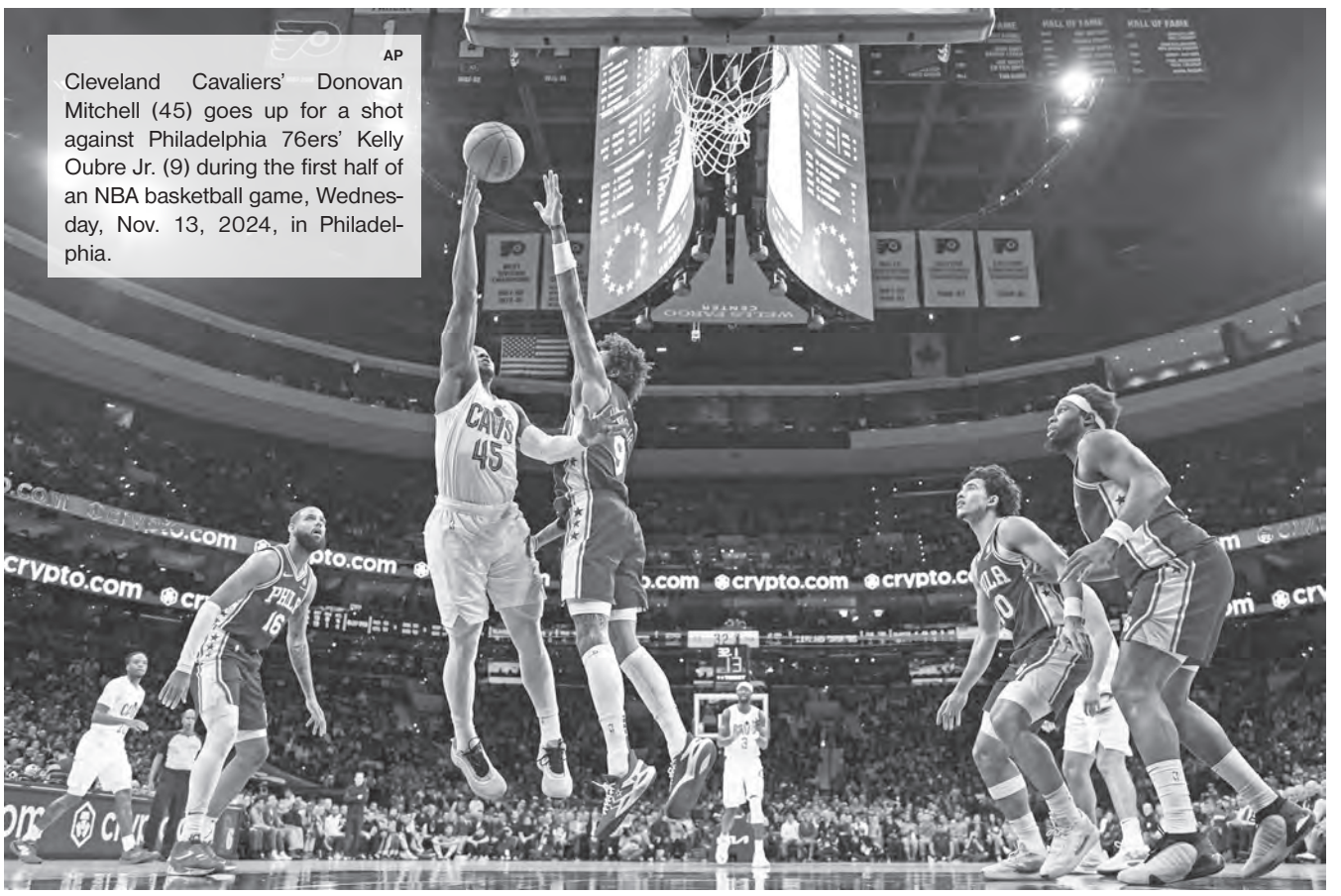
Aroma, Chew, Cranky, Desire, Devour, Digest, Dine, Dinner, Drained, Eat, Enjoy, Events, Famished, Feeling, Fixings, Fractious, Grouchy, Grumpy, Holidays, Hungry, Ingest, Jaded, Kitchen, Lagging, Lunch, Munch, Need, Nettlesome, Refrigerator, Restaurant, Scratchy, Sleeping, Sluggish, Snacks, Starving, Taste, Techy, Time, Underfed, Worn

Yesterday's Answer: Road Rage

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Cavs beats Sixers to become 6th NBA team to start 13-0



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' Donovan Mitchell (45) goes up for a shot against Philadelphia 76ers' Kelly Oubre Jr. (9) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Donovan Mitchell scored 11 of his 23 points in the final three minutes of the game and the Cleveland Cavaliers became the sixth team in NBA history to start a season 13-0 with a 114-106 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

Mitchell also grabbed 13 rebounds and added nine assists as Cleveland became the first team since the 2015-16 Golden State Warriors to win 13 straight to begin a season. That Warriors team holds the record for most wins to begin a campaign at 24 straight.

Darius Garland scored 25 points while Evan Mobley had 14 points with seven rebounds.

Jared McCain had a career-high 34 for the 76ers, who played without Paul George and Joel Embiid on the second night of a back-to-back as part of left knee injury maintenance. Kelly Oubre Jr. had 20 points while Caleb Martin added 18 for the Sixers.

On a night when Cleveland didn't come with its best game, the team had enough firepower to hold off a gritty bunch of young Sixers who played perhaps their best all-around game of the season.

The best news of the day for the Sixers came pregame when both George and Embiid were cleared to play on Friday night in Orlando. Head coach Nick Nurse said George's minutes restriction would be lifted.

Mitchell hit three 3-pointers with less than three minutes to play to extend Cleveland's lead to seven, seemingly taking the starch out of the Sixers final push.

The Cavaliers have won 13 in a row for the fourth time in franchise history. The other three times—in 2009, 2010 and 2017—were when they had LeBron James on the roster.

TRAIL BLAZERS 106, TIMBERWOLVES 98

PORTLAND (AP)—Shaedon Sharpe scored 33 points, Donovan Clingan narrowly missed a triple-double with 17 points, 13 rebounds and eight blocks on Wednesday, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Minnesota Timberwolves for the second straight night 106-98.

Anthony Edwards scored 24 points as Minnesota squandered an early lead and dropped its third straight game.

The teams entered the fourth quarter tied before Portland took control behind the defence of Clingan, who had four blocks in the period as Minnesota missed 10 of its first 11 shots to start the final frame.

Portland extended its lead to double digits for the first time on free throws by Sharpe, the London, Ont., native, to make it 89-78.

BULLS 124, KNICKS 123

NEW YORK (AP)—Zach LaVine scored 31 points and Coby White had 22, including the winning free throws with three seconds left, as Chicago outlasted New York 124-123.

The Bulls led by as many as 22 in the third quarter, but the Knicks rallied and went ahead 123-121 on Jalen Brunson's bucket with four seconds remaining.

On the ensuing possession, White was fouled by Josh Hart on a 3-point attempt and made all three.

Brunson's potential winner rimmed out at the buzzer.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored a season-high 46 points for the Knicks, adding 10 rebounds. Brunson finished with 24 points and Mikal Bridges had 20.

Nikola Vucevic had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls.

CELTICS 139, NETS 114

NEW YORK (AP)—Jayson Tatum had 36 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds, Jaylen Brown added 24 points and 12 rebounds and Boston beat Brooklyn.

Payton Pritchard had 23 points, eight assists and six rebounds for the Celtics, who quickly and emphatically bounced back with their highest points total of the season after a surprising 117-116 home loss to Atlanta on Tuesday night.

Boston fell into a 13-point hole in the first quarter of this one before the NBA champions snapped themselves back into top form and turned the game into a rout with a 74-point second half.

Ziaire Williams scored a season-high 23 points for the Nets.

MAGIC 94, PACERS 90

ORLANDO (AP)—Franz Wagner scored 29 points, Jalen Suggs hit two free throws with 9.8 seconds left and Orlando beat Indiana to remain unbeaten at home.

Orlando is 6-0 at home this season and has won 13 in a row overall at home.

Former Raptors star Pascal Siakam led Indiana with 29 points. Montreal's Bennedict Mathurin added 23 points - scoring 12 straight Pacers points late in the fourth quarter - and 12 rebounds. Tyrese Haliburton had with nine points and 12 assists.

Goga Bitadze added 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Magic. Anthony Black came off the bench for six points, six assists, four steals and a block.

Read more.

KINGS 127, SUNS 101

SACRAMENTO (AP)—De'Aaron Fox had 29 points and 10 assists, Kevin Huerter scored a season-high 22 points and the Sacramento Kings beat the Phoenix Suns 127-101 on Wednesday night.

Domantas Sabonis added 11 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists to help the Kings to their second victory in four days against the Suns, who were without Kevin Durant for the third straight game because of a strained calf.

Josh Okogie had a season-high 25 points and eight rebounds for the Suns, who also were without Bradley Beal (calf) and Grayson Allen (hamstring). Devin Booker had 18 points.

The Kings' DeMar DeRozan did not play in the second half because of lower back tightness.

Read more.

THUNDER 106, PELICANS 88

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Jalen Williams scored 31 points, Hamilton's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 29 and Oklahoma City beat short-handed New Orleans.

The victory was the second straight for the Thunder without Chet Holmgren. Oklahoma City was coming off a 134-128 win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday.

Montreal's Lu Dort scored 11 points and Aaron Wiggins added 10 for Oklahoma City, which broke a 59-all tie with a 16-0 run in the third quarter for a 75-59 advantage.

Williams shot 10 for 18, including 4 for 7 from long distance and had seven assists. Gilgeous-Alexander made 12 of 25 shots and the Thunder converted 15 of 39 shots from 3-point range.

Brandon Ingram scored 18 points, Trey Murphy added 14 and Yves Missi had 10 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans, which outrebounded Oklahoma City 58-31, but was slowed by 24 turnovers.

ROCKETS 111, CLIPPERS 103

HOUSTON (AP)—Jalen Green had 21 points and Amen Thompson and Tari Eason added 18 each to lead Houston to a victory over Los Angeles in the opener of a two-game set.

The Rockets trailed by 11 early but had taken a five-point lead by halftime. They used a huge run at the end of the third quarter and the beginning of the fourth to push the lead to 19.

The Clippers used a 9-2 run to cut the lead to four with about 90 seconds remaining, but Alperen Sengun had a dunk followed by a monster block on the other end to secure Houston's third straight victory.

James Harden had 19 points for the Clippers, who lost a second straight after winning four in a row. He was 3 of 4 on 3-pointers in the first quarter but missed all four attempts after that. He moved within three of tying Ray Allen (2,973) for second-most career 3-pointers in NBA history behind Stephen Curry (3.779).

SPURS 139, WIZARDS 130

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Victor Wembanyama had a career-high 50 points and San Antonio rolled to a victory over Washington.

Wembanyama was 8 for 16 on 3-pointers, also setting a career high, as San Antonio won its second straight.

Jordan Poole had 42 points for Washington, which lost its sixth straight.

At 20 years 314 days, Wembanyama is the fourth-youngest player to score 50 points, trailing only Brandon Jennings (20/52), LeBron James (20/80) and Devin Booker (20/145).

Wembanyama's previous high was 49 points in a 130-126 overtime victory over New York.

Wembanyama made at least six 3-pointers for the third straight game.

Devin Vassell had 17 points in his third game for the Spurs since returning from offseason surgery to repair a fractured right foot.

BUCKS 127, PISTONS 120 (OT)

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 59 points to pace Milwaukee to a overtime victory over Detroit.

It was a league-high for points by an NBA player this season and the second-highest single-game total for Antetokounmpo, who had 64 against Indiana last season.

Antetokounmpo hit 21 of 34 shots and 16 of 17 free throws and added 14 rebounds and seven assists as the Bucks rallied from an 18-point second-half deficit.

Brook Lopez added 29 points for the Bucks. Cade Cunningham led Detroit with 35 points and Malik Beasley had 26 against his former team.

Detroit's Ron Holland II was fouled by Antetokounmpo with one second left in regulation and the score tied at 111, but Holland missed both free throws.

Read more.

LAKERS 128, GRIZZLIES 123

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James had 35 points, 14 assists and 12 rebounds for his third straight triple-double and the Los Angeles Lakers rallied to beat the Memphis Grizzlies 128-123 on Wednesday night.

Anthony Davis scored 11 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter. He picked up his fifth foul with 3:51 remaining in the third quarter, then came back in with 6:48 left and hit a couple of pivotal baskets, including a 3-pointer with 4:51 remaining to put Los Angeles up for good at 111-108.

James was 13 of 22 from the field, hitting 4 of 7 3-pointers.

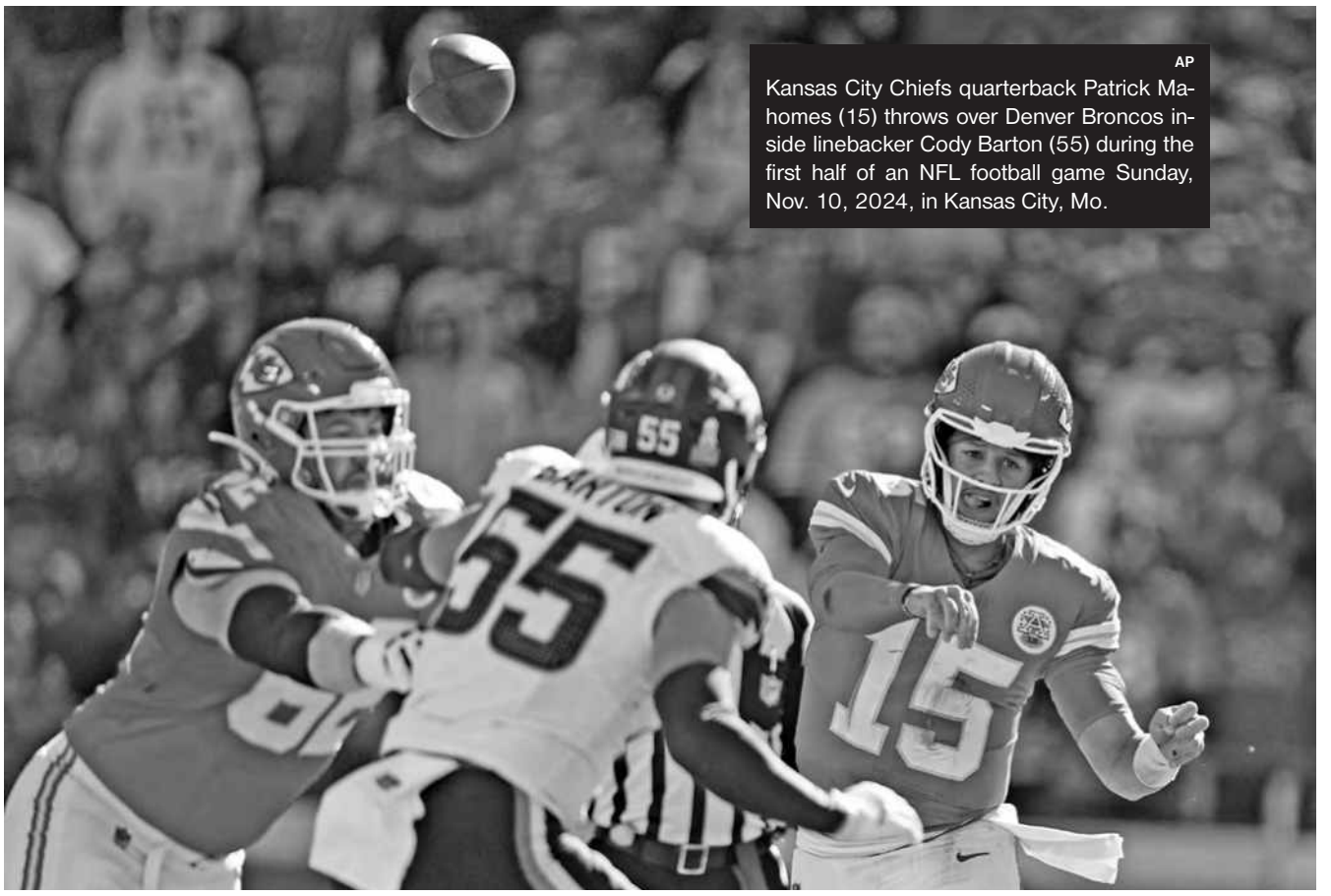
Jaren Jackson Jr. had 29 points for Memphis, which had a three-game winning streak snapped.

Rookie Dalton Knecht and Rui Hachimura added 19 points apiece for the Lakers.

The Lakers trailed 96-91 at the end of three quarters before starting the quarter with a 10-2 run. The lead would change hands three more times before the 3-pointer by Davis, who also had 14 rebounds.

Double-digit deficits barely speed bump for Mahomes and Chiefs

By JOSH DUBOW
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



AP
Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) throws over Denver Broncos inside linebacker Cody Barton (55) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

Falling behind by a double-digit deficit is typically a death knell for most NFL teams.

For Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs, that's the situation that makes them thrive.

Mahomes and the Chiefs rallied from 14-3 down to beat the Denver Broncos 16-14 on Sunday to improve to 9-0 with their second comeback from at least 10 points down this season after also doing it in Week 4 against the Chargers.

Kansas City improved to 19-14 with Mahomes at quarterback after falling behind by double digits in the regular season or playoffs for a staggering .576 win percentage in those typically dire situations, compared with the .139 mark in NFL history and the .160 mark since Mahomes entered the NFL in 2017.

No quarterback other than Mahomes who has faced at least 20 double-digit deficits has won even 40% of those games, with Tom Brady (.378) and Joe Montana at (.370) coming next on the list.

The Chiefs are more likely to win a game after falling behind by at least 10 points with Mahomes at quarterback than teams are in all games with several notable quarterbacks, including Hall of Famers Dan Fouts (.503), Joe Namath (.500) and Warren Moon (.493); former MVP Matt Ryan (.527) and two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning (.508).

Mahomes needed some help with a blocked field goal to seal Kansas City's 15th straight win in the regular season and playoffs, which is the longest streak in the NFL since Green Bay won 19 in a row in 2010-11.

Kansas City is the fifth defending Super Bowl champion to start the following season 9-0 or better. With a win this week at Buffalo, the Chiefs' 10-0 start will trail only the 2011 Packers (13-0) and the 1998 Broncos (13-0) for the most consecutive wins to begin a season for a defending champion.

New Yuck, New Yuck

The New York Jets and Giants both played—and lost—on Sunday, which shouldn't come as a big surprise based on how the Big Apple's teams have fared recently.

That marked the fourth time in five weeks that the two teams that are the worst in the NFL over the last eight seasons both lost. The Jets lead the NFL with 86 losses since the start of the 2017—one more than their MetLife Stadium co-tenants, the Giants, have in that span.

There have been 116 weeks since the start of the 2017 season when the Jets and Giants both played—excluding two head-to-head matchups—with both teams losing in 59 of those weeks compared with just 12 weeks where they went 2-0.

There are plenty of reasons for the lack of success for both teams, but the lack of development for the Giants' 2019 first-round draft pick, quarterback Daniel Jones, and the lack of production from Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers are high on the list.

The 40-year-old Rodgers looks little like the QB who won back-to-back MVPs in Green Bay in 2020-21. After missing almost all of his first season in New York with a torn Achilles tendon, Rodgers has been unable to elevate the Jets' offense this season.

New York has been held without an offensive touchdown twice in Rodgers' last seven starts—matching the total he had in 239 regular-season and playoff starts in Green Bay when he played at least a half.

Rodgers has gone 33 straight starts in the regular season and playoffs without throwing for at least 300 yards in any game—tied for the third-longest streak in the last 20 years, trailing David Garrard's 39 straight in 2005-08 and Alex Smith's 35 from 2005-09.

Jones has been even worse, failing to throw a single TD pass in six of his 10 games this season. He joined Mike Glennon (2021) as the only Giants QBs in the last 20 seasons to have multiple games with at least two interceptions, no touchdown passes and fewer than 200 yards passing.

Chasing history

Ja'Marr Chase put up a season of production for some players in just two games against the Baltimore Ravens.

Chase followed up his 10 catches for 193 yards and two TDs in the first meeting between Cincinnati and Baltimore with 11 catches for 264 yards and three scores in a 35-34 loss on Thursday night.

Chase's 457 yards receiving are the most for a player in one season against a single opponent, topping Art Powell's 428 for the Raiders against Houston in 1963. Chase is the first player in NFL history with two career games with at least 250 yards receiving and two TDs, having also done it against Kansas City in Week 17 of the 2021 season.

Despite Chase's historic production, the Bengals lost both games because they couldn't stop Lamar Jackson, who had eight TD passes in the two games.

In all, the teams combined for 148 points, 1,541 yards passing and 17 TD passes in the two meetings. That's tied for the most TD passes thrown in a season series between two teams with Washington and the New York Giants in 1962, and the third most yards passing, trailing San Francisco-Atlanta in 1990 (1,600) and Detroit-Green Bay in 2011 (1,583).

Happy Harbaugh

Jim Harbaugh's history of being a turnaround artist as a coach has carried over to the Los Angeles Chargers.

The Chargers already surpassed last season's win total after beating Tennessee 27-17 on Sunday to improve to 6-3 and give Harbaugh his 50th career regular-season win.

Harbaugh reached the mark in his 73rd game as a head coach in the NFL. Only six coaches since the merger got there faster, according to Sportradar, including his older brother, John, who got his 50th win in his 72nd game as coach in Baltimore. The fastest coach to 50 wins in the Super Bowl era was George Seifert, who took over the Super Bowl champion 49ers in 1989 and won 50 of his first 62 games.

Harbaugh led San Francisco to a seven-game improvement in his first season there in 2011 and had similar success in college. Stanford improved by three wins in his first season and Michigan made a five-win jump in his first year there.

The Chargers have done it largely behind a defense that became the ninth team in the Super Bowl era to allow 20 points or fewer in each of the first nine games of a season. They are just the fourth team to do that since 1980, joining the 2013 Chiefs, the 1999 Jaguars and the 1990 Super Bowl champion Giants.

Deommodore Lenoir's growth leads to a big payday from the 49ers

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Deommodore Lenoir's NFL career didn't get off to the greatest starts when he accidentally posted an offseason practice video on social media that led to a fine for the San Francisco 49ers and coach Kyle Shanahan for violating rules about no contact in practice.

He also had problems on the field early as a rookie, allowing a long catch to Davante Adams that set up a game-winning field goal for Green Bay in his third career game that dealt a blow to his confidence.

Lenoir has grown greatly from that inauspicious beginning, developing into the rare cornerback who can thrive both inside and outside, leading to a lucrative reward when he signed a five-year, $92 million contract extension that firmly establishes Lenoir as one of the top players at his position.

"When I heard my agent tell me the deal was finally done, I burst out into tears," Lenoir said Wednesday. "I'm finally able to change my family's life for generations. It's just a blessing."

Lenoir has come a long way since falling to the fifth round in the 2021 draft and getting off to a slow start to his career. But the flashes were there from the start, even in the practice video that Lenoir posted of him jamming a receiver that led to a $100,000 fine to the team and a $50,000 fine for Shanahan.

"That was the first time I ever got mad at him, but I was really excited about it," Shanahan said. "Despite what it took away, my kids' college tuition. But it showed we had the right type of dude and he's always been like that. The fact that he can play nickel inside and play the way he does and play and cover guys outside, are the types of guys you want in the secondary and a special type of corner."

Lenoir initially feared he might get cut when he saw the video splashed across social media and on "SportsCenter." But now he can joke about it.

"I can finally pay Kyle back for Carter's tuition," he said.

Lenoir earned the hefty payday that makes him the 12th-highest paid cornerback in the league based on average annual value of the contract.

Lenoir has developed into one of the better cornerbacks in the NFL this season, excelling in both the slot and the outside for San Francisco. Lenoir has split time at the two positions, allowing 35 catches on 56 targets this season with a 65 passer rating on throws into his coverage, according to Pro Football Focus.

"It's hard enough to cover on the outside," All-Pro linebacker Fred Warner said. "You usually find a guy who is good at covering or a bigger guy who is good in the run game. But to find a guy that could do both at as high a level that he is. I think he's having an All-Pro type of year."

Lenoir has allowed no TD passes and has two interceptions, six passes defensed and one forced fumble. Lenoir also returned a blocked field goal for a touchdown.

"He's earned it as much as anybody," defensive end Nick Bosa said. "I think he's an underrated player when it comes to recognition around the league. But everybody in this building knows how valuable he is."

Locking up Lenoir was a priority for the 49ers. Their two top cornerbacks were eligible for free agency with Charvarius Ward also in the last year of his contract.

Now they have Lenoir and promising rookie Renardo Green in place for the long term at cornerback. The Niners tried to get the deal done before the season but the two sides were unable to come to terms.

They found common ground this week with a deal that keeps him off the open market.

"I knew this where I wanted to be," Lenoir said. "Hopefully we could have gotten something done earlier, but I'm happy we got something done, and I'm here, and I remain here for the rest of my career. ... Just being able to play with all these great guys. I had no other option but to try and be great."

Pickleball clinic, run class for beginners this Saturday

MARK RABAGO

Nine-time pickleball national champion Daniel Moore conducted a clinic on Saipan in March 2023.

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship is celebrating its 26th anniversary this month with a bevy of sports and health activities tomorrow, Nov. 16, 7:30am-11:30am at the Marianas High School campus.

It starts with a pickleball beginners' class for all ages. There will be coaches from LITS, Pickleball Federation of the NMI, and other community members who will teach the basics of the fastest growing sport in the U.S., including rules and scoring.

Participants are encouraged to sign up in the Google form to choose a timeslot from 7:30am, 8:30am, 9:30am, 10:30am, and 11am. They also need to sign the waiver at https://forms.gle/ez91ENRtC7uiQPep7.

There will also be a run/walk clinic for beginners. Called "From Zero to Hero," the clinic will be hosted by Run Saipan.

"If anyone is interested on learning how to start running, proper mechanics, and injury prevention please come to the clinic. We will cover over proper shoe selection as well and exercises to strengthen for running. This clinic is not for intermediate or advance runners. If you want to run a 5:00/mile please contact Dr. Ron Snyder or Mr. Robin Sapong. This clinic is for people that want to start running or improve as a beginner," said Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr.

The LITS event will also feature free health screening (blood pressure and blood glucose) by the NMC Nursing Club and LITS volunteers as well as free eye screening by Marianas Eye Clinic.

LITS pastor Eric A. Abragan said the community outreach has adopted the theme "Don't Sugarcoat it! Beat Diabetes!—Move More" and is in collaboration with the Diabetes Awareness Month organizing committee and various community partners to help fight against the noncommunicable disease.

"We believe in wholistic approach to health. Healthy living involves healthy mind, body and spirit. This outreach is just one way to help us and our community toward healthier living," he said.

Abragan said the next day, on Sunday, Nov. 17, he is also inviting the community to celebrate with LITS at Grandvrio Resort Saipan's Fiesta Hall, starting at 9:30am. Lunch will follow at the beach after the Sunday worship celebration with Mark Benavente, senior pastor of LITS Guam, serving as guest speaker.

RUN SAIPAN

Participants of Run Saipan's 2nd Annual Veterans Day 5K last Monday approach the finish line near the Micro Beach Pavilion at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

For more information about the LITS 26th anniversary weekend events, call (670) 235-5433 or visit their website at www.lifeintheson-saipab.org. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

DIRTY

From page 16

rack up more runs in the sixth. Mo Sablan, Irish Pagarao, and Duenas all rounded the bases to tie it all up, 7-7, and erase the once daunting gap the Lady Blue Jays enjoyed.

The Lady Blue Jays then nudged a run in to regain the lead, 8-7, at the bottom of the sixth, but the Dirty Diamonds found a way to make things happen once again at the top of the seventh. Clutch runs by top of their lineup—Britney Gopez, Amy Cabrera, Rachel Salalila, and Sablan—turned the tide and made it an 11-8 game.

With the final say by the Lady Blue Jays in the batters' box, they only came up with just one more run at the bottom of the last inning as they lost the game from a blown early game lead.

In the other games that day, Man Amigas banded together to beat Wettz, 11-4, and Batties pummeled 670 Babes, 17-4.

KANOA

From page 16

put them up, 4-0, then shot two more goals for a hat-trick by the 35th minute.

By that time, they were up, 6-0, then Hayven Motesiou scored their last goal just a couple minutes later. 7-0 became the eventual final score as Shirley's failed to produce.

Meanwhile, Kanoa's U17 boys team slipped past Matansa, 2-1. Paul Lizama scored their two goals in a 10-minute span—21st and 31st minute—even before Matansa could score. Matansa got their lone goal in the 39th minute, but that was all they could do.

Their U14 boys team, KFC 1, edged MPU, 3-2.

KFC 1 got first dibs after much exchange of possessions before the 17th minute when Damien Concepcion got them on board. Just six minutes later though, MPU shot an equalizer for a 1-1 game.

Both teams got on board again for a still knotted up game, 2-2 in the 38th minute, until finally, KFC 1's Arstin Tagabuel knocked in the eventual winning goal in the 49th minute.

Then, Kanoa's U14 girls team blanked MP United, 2-0.

In other results, the Women's Development Team blanked MPU U17 boys, 12-0; and MPU U17 girls team doubled Paire, 4-2.

In the U14 girls division, Paire and Shirley's were at a 3-3 draw; and in the U14 boys, Latte got the better of Matansa, 2-1, and KFC 2 ended in a scoreless draw against Shirley's.

And in the younger divisions, U12 boys of Latte ended in a stalemate, 2-2, with Paire; Matansa won over Shirley's, 3-1; and KFC 1 locked 1-1 with MPU.

Manibusan

Manibusan is October winner

Attorney General Edward Manibusan topped the Saipan Golfers Association October Ace of the Month Tournament last Oct. 27 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

Manibusan actually finished fourth overall, but Rick Kautz (net 79), Alex Tudela (net 80), and Patrick Cepeda (net 81) already won in previous months. SGA rules preclude current monthly winners to win again for the season.

Manibusan finished with a net 82 in the October tourney built around a 43 in the front nine and a 48 in the back nine for a gross of 91 for the 9-handicapper.

He now joins the 2024 Ace of the Month winners Larry Deleon Guerrero (January), Alex Tudela (February), Nick Sablan (March), Das Krishnan (April), Joe I. Sablan (May), Freddie Cataluna (June), Jung Eun Teack (July), Patrick Cepeda (August), and Rene Batallones (September).

In the closest to the pin tilt, Kautz won hole No. 3, while Manibusan and Cepeda lorded it over in holes No. 3 and 7, respectively. In the longest drive competition, Tudela brought the lumber in hole No. 2. Ditto for Kautz in hole No. 18.

The 2024 November Ace of the Month Tournament is scheduled this Sunday, Nov. 17, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort's east course. Tee time is 9am with show time at 8:30am. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MANIBUSAN

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surfed very well in the Masters Division and we are so proud of him. He challenged some very good surfers as well. It's a statement for him to bring home a title to the CNMI. His Best Maneuver Award was very special because that included the entire competition. It's a testament to Frank's commitment and dedication to his craft."

As for the event and the whole team's performance, he said, "The Ripper Classic was an amazing event. There were so many talented Guam surfers in the competition and they brought the fire. We couldn't be more proud of Frank, Herman, and Vincent. They gave it all they had and they all trained so hard for this event. The conditions were challenging which made the surfers' technique and skill set major factors going into this event."

The team's strengths, he said, was technique. "When the swells don't quite have the size, it becomes more important to be able to complete maneuvers and especially combinations as clean as possible… Frank was the only team member that has surfed at Hagatña Boat Basin before. The Guam surfers were very commendatory of all our surfers. That meant a lot to all of us. We look forward to [being] invited back again next year."

In this year's annual Boogie Down at Obyan surf event on Dec. 14, he said, "Now we will have a much bigger Guam contingent coming to compete in our competition The Boogie Down at Obyan next month in December. We will have two divisions this year: the Open Division and the Drop-Knee (DK) Division. If we can get enough female competitors to join, we may have a Female Division. Stay tuned and we will see you again this December at Boogie Down at Obyan."

He then thanked Guahan Bodyboarders Inc. for "hosting this amazing event. We were overwhelmed with the hafa adai spirit and hospitality that Guam showed us. Thank you again to all our sponsors and those that supported our fundraiser for this event. Un dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'åse yan Ghilisow. One Marianas."

Email marianas.surfskate@gmail.com or call (670)783-0754 if you are interested in supporting the Boogie Down at Obyan on December 14. 2024 at Obyan Beach, Saipan.

The Marianas Surf Skate League is a non-profit organization formed to promote the sports of surfing and skateboarding in the CNMI through events, competitions, and youth clinics.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	10	3	.769	–
New York	5	6	.455	4
Brooklyn	5	7	.417	4½
Philadelphia	2	9	.182	7
Toronto	2	10	.167	7½
Southeast Division				
Orlando	7	6	.538	–
Atlanta	5	7	.417	1½
Miami	4	6	.400	1½
Charlotte	4	7	.364	2
Washington	2	8	.200	3½
Central Division				
Cleveland	13	0	1.000	–
Indiana	5	6	.455	7
Chicago	5	7	.417	7½
Detroit	5	8	.385	8
Milwaukee	4	8	.333	8½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	8	4	.667	–
Memphis	7	5	.583	1
San Antonio	6	6	.500	2
Dallas	5	6	.455	2½
New Orleans	3	9	.250	5
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	10	2	.833	–
Denver	7	3	.700	2
Minnesota	6	6	.500	4
Portland	5	8	.385	5½
Utah	2	8	.200	7
Pacific Division				
Golden State	9	2	.818	–
Phoenix	9	3	.750	½
L.A. Lakers	7	4	.636	2
Sacramento	7	5	.583	2½
L.A. Clippers	6	6	.500	3½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cavs beats Sixers to become 6th NBA team to start 13-0.

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Sports

Pickleball clinic, run class for beginners this Saturday.

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Dirty Diamonds rally vs. Lady Blue Jays, 11-9

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Dirty Diamonds got down and dirty in the last innings for a late-game rally and won over the Lady Blue Jays, 11-9, in the Inaugural NMI Softball Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe.

LEIGH GASES

A Dirty Diamonds batter swings at a high pitch during their opening game in the Inaugural NMI Softball Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe.

LEIGH GASES

Dirty Diamonds pitcher Lizann Deleon Guerrero tosses a pitch home during their opening game in the Inaugural NMI Softball Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe.

Despite a one-run first inning by the Dirty Diamonds, the Lady Blue Jays retaliated quickly. They were up, 2-1 at the end of the first from runs scored by Herminia Agulto and Kiana Camacho.

Their pitcher, Bert Camacho, then silenced the Dirty Diamonds in the next three innings. Her offense backed her up with five more runs in the second from Brit Lizama, Bong Babauta, Agulto, Kiana, and Erin Mendiola, for a solid 7-1 lead.

However, the Dirty Diamonds found their swing in the fifth inning and began to chip away at the Lady Blue Jays' lead. Lorenza Duenas started it off with a run, followed by another run by Joma Santos and Lori Lacey to make it a 4-7 game.

The Lady Blue Jays failed to score in the fifth, which allowed the Dirty Diamonds to

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Kanoa teams notch wins in TYSL

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club's teams in different divisions were on a roll as they won their matches in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

NMIFA

A Kanoa player slides for the ball during their game against MP United in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

The U17 girls team devoured Shirley's, 7-0.

Kanoa got a jumpstart with a goal in the 7th minute by Aubrey White, followed by another by her just three minutes later for a 2-0 lead. White then solidified her tirade on the pitch with a hat-trick in the 13th minute before Shirley's could even catch their breath.

Shirley's tried to get something going and notch a goal on the scoreboard, but Kanoa not only overpowered them offensively, but also defensively. In the 25th minute, Beatrice Gross

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NMIFA

A Kanoa player, left, chases down a ball alongside a MP United player during their game in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

Manibusan: Proud of surfers in Guam's Ripper Classic

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Ed Manibusan Jr., Marianas Surf Skate League chair, is proud of the three surfers that competed in the Guahan Bodyboarders Inc.'s Ripper Classic last weekend at the Boat Basin in Hagåtña, Guam.

Veteran surfer Frank Ramon clinched the masters division championship and won the Best Maneuver award over other Guam surfers.

Herman "Mä" Guerrero made it to the quarterfinals of the men's open division, while Vicente "Te" Villagomez fell short in round 1.

Manibusan said of Ramon's performance, "Frank

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI surfers and Marianas Surf Skate League members pose for a group photo before the Guahan Bodyboarders Inc.'s Ripper Classic last weekend at the Boat Basin in Hagåtña, Guam.